

THE
HISTORY OF
VANILLO GONZALES,

SURNAMED
THE MERRY BATCHELOR.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

FROM THE FRENCH OF
ALAIN-RENÉ LE SAGE,
AUTHOR OF THE CELEBRATED NOVELS OF "GIL BLAS"
AND "THE DEVIL UPON CRUTCHES."

VOLUME THE SECOND.

"MORIS HOMINUM MULTORUM VIDIT ET URBS."

"HE MANY MEN AND MANY MANNERS SAW."

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR G. G. AND J. ROBINSON,
FATER-NOSTER ROW.

M DCC XCVII.

RECEIVED OF
THE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

IN THE

FROM THE

AND THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE



THE
CONTENTS
OF THE
SECOND VOLUME.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-FIRST.

THE arrival of VANILLO at MADRID. What person he met at the Hotel in which he resided; and the Conversation they had with each other.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-SECOND.

A description of the characters VANILLO supped with the same evening, and the debate in which he engaged with one of the Company.

CHAPTER

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY THIRD.

VANILLO, in going to the King's levee, meets his former master Don HENRY OF BOLOGNA, who takes him to his house, and shews him a new kind of register.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-FOURTH.

The characters of two Cavaliers, and the subject of their visit to Don HENRY.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-FIFTH.

The important event which happened a short time afterwards at Court; the changes which followed; and the separation of VANILLO and RAMIREZ.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-SIXTH.

*The new acquaintance which VANILLO formed.
The History of Don MARCOS DE GIRAFÀ.*

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-SEVENTH.

The pleasures which VANILLO generally pursued during his residence at MADRID.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-EIGHTH.

By what accident and in what situation VANILLO found BERNARDINA. The Conversation they had with each other; and the Consequences it produced.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-NINTH.

VANILLO sells his lotion and ointment; gains a large sum of money; and becomes miserly in proportion as he grows rich.

CHAPTER THE FORTIETH.

In which the reader will find a strange reverse of fortune; and a deplorable trait of human malice.

CHAPTER

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-FIRST.

The consolation VANILLO received during his Confinement.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-SECOND.

The manner and condition in which VANILLO was released from the dungeon of the Holy Inquisition.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-THIRD.

VANILLO expresses his gratitude to DALFA and BERNARDINA for procuring his enlargement; the consoling reception he met with from those Ladies; and the secret he communicated to them in return.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-FOURTH.

VANILLO returns to his hotel. The conversation he has with his host; and the joy he felt on meeting with his former friend FERRARI. The consequences which resulted from this renewal of their acquaintance.

CHAPTER

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-FIFTH.

VANILLO takes leave of his two associates Signiora DALFA and BERNARDINA, and goes from MADRID to BURGOS.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-SIXTH.

The History of DON JOACHIM DE RODILLAS.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-SEVENTH.

The news which VANILLO received, and the cause of his quitting the Chateau of FERRARI to return to MADRID. The situation in which he found DALFA and BERNARDINA, and the new misfortune he experienced.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-EIGHTH.

The cause of VANILLO's being released after fifteen days confinement; and the reason of his being sent to the Castle of ALMEDA to keep the Duke of OSSUNA company.

CHAPTER

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-NINTH.

The state in which VANILLO found THE DUKE OF OSSUNA; in what manner that Nobleman received him; the conversation they had with each other; and the personages by whom it was interrupted.

CHAPTER THE FIFTIETH.

The means VANILLO employed to divert the mind of the noble Prisoner, and the effects he produced.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-FIRST.

The Duke, notwithstanding all the care of VANILLO, falls into a despondency, which nothing could dissipate. The unhappy event which soon followed it.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-SECOND.

The consequences of the Duke of OSSUNA's death, and the consolation which the King afforded to his wife and son. VANILLO enters into the service of Don JUAN TELLES.

CHAPTER

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-THIRD.

The departure of the new Governor, and the accident which prevented VANILLO from accompanying him to SICILY. The consequences of this accident.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-FOURTH.

VANILLO's conversation with the widow ; and the astonishment of both of them on discovering who they were.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-FIFTH.

The History of INESILLA, the sister of VANILLO.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-SIXTH.

VANILLO prepares to quit his sister, in order to join the new Viceroy at PALERMO, but he bears news which prevents his departure and induces him to stay at BARCELONA.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-THIRD.

The department of the new Governor and the
 various local agencies and the
 various agencies in the city. The department
 of this section.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-FOURTH

the appointment of 1st of Jan as beginning
of the year.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-FIFTH.

The History of Insular Affairs of Vanillo.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-SIXTH.

and in fact this is how the situation is.

THE
HISTORY
OF
VANILLO GONZALES;
OR,
THE MERRY BATCHELOR.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-FIRST.

The Arrival of VANILLO at MADRID. What Person he met at the Hotel in which he resided; and the Conversation they had with each other.

ON my arrival at the metropolis of the Spanish Monarchy, I fixed my residence in the vicinity of the SUN-GATE, at

THE HISTORY OF

an Hotel, in which the first person I saw was Don RAMIREZ DE PRADO. We repeatedly saluted each other with transport, and exhibited on both sides a higher degree of joy at our meeting than either of us really felt. "What brings you to MADRID?" said Don RAMIREZ; "do you intend to make it your constant residence?"

"I intend so to do," replied I; "all other cities in the world, not even excepting the several capitals of Europe, appear to me petty villages, when compared with MADRID, which is the only place where men of spirit ought to live and die."

PRADO smiled at my observation. "You must be a sincere admirer of the metropolis," said he, "to speak of it in these terms. I acknowledge it is a delightful city; but I am forced at the same time to confess, that in order to enjoy its delights it is necessary to be rich; for pleasure is certainly more expensive here than in any other place: are you



"you in a condition to purchase them at a high price?"

"In truth I am not," said I.

"Nor I neither," replied PRADO, "although it is not long since I was at SALAMANCA to receive my patrimony, which was sufficiently large to have enabled me to live at MADRID in the style of a Gentleman; but, to tell you the truth, I have already disposed of the greater part of it, and was in an excellent train to get rid of the remainder, when, by the most extraordinary event imaginable, I suddenly became prudent and discreet."

I could not avoid laughing in my turn at these words. I requested Don RAMIREZ to inform me by what possibility a young libertine could be so immediately reclaimed, when old ones generally continue the character during their lives.

"If," said he, "you are really desirous to be informed of the means by which that reformation was effected, do me the favour to accompany me to my apartments,

THE HISTORY OF

"ments, for I lodge in this Hotel, and I
"will recount to you the history of my
"conversion."

CURIOSITY induced me to follow Don
RAMIREZ to his chamber, where having
entered and taken our seats he began as
follows.

I could not avoid feeling in my
at these words. I recalled Don Ram-
a to inform me of what possibly
young persons could be so uncharitably
THE
to be informed of the means by which
that information was collected, to the
"favor to accompany me to my apart-
ment."

VANILLO GONZALES.

THE
HISTORY
OF
DON RAMIREZ DE PRADO.

THE ardent inclination for the fair sex which Nature has implanted in my bosom seduced me, even while I was a pensionary student with Doctor CANIZARES. Signiora DALFA, who was at that time distinguished by the appellation of *the Charming Widow*, was the first object that attracted my attention; not so much indeed by her beauty, as by a certain talent which she possesses in an eminent and peculiar degree of seducing the affections of young men, and which, it is said, she very frequently exercised even during the life of her husband; but while she inspired me with love, I think, coquet as she was, she felt, if I may say so without being thought vain,

some little affection for me. Her house was open to me whenever I pleased, and she always received me with much seeming cordiality. It is true I enjoyed this pleasure in common with several other students; for access to her house was not, like that to the temple of CERES, forbidden to man. Her company, however, was selected with great judgment; for all her visitors, except myself, had purses lined with gold, and were, in general, the sons of opulent parents, whose coffers they constantly drained to enable themselves to give handsome entertainments to this charming widow and her niece BERNARDINA, whose budding beauties were just beginning to render her an object of attention.

It was not long before this lovely female enjoyed the triumph of her charms. The fame of her extraordinary beauty soon reached the ears of those young men who are ever vigilant to discover this inferior class of fashionable characters; many of whom tempted her virtue, and the eloquence of the most generous was of course the best received. But I, though almost
moneyless,

moneyless, was never refused admittance to the house. To recompence this want of *cash*, however, I frequently introduced older students, who were able to pay the reckoning, and taught these apprentices of Love how to defray the expences of instruction.

“ I AM not ignorant of this part of your history,” interrupted I, with a smile; “ you contrived to employ my doubloons in the service of these Nymphs. Allow me however to say, that it is acting a part not quite suitable to the character of a Gentleman.”

“ I ACKNOWLEDGE it,” replied PRADO; “ but you must excuse such conduct in a young student, whose passion overwhelmed every other consideration. Besides, VANILLO, between ourselves, where is there a man who can recall all the actions of his past life, without feeling a secret shame at having done something his mind disapproves? “ There is no man,” says a Spanish author, “ who, if he examines his past conduct with scrupulous attention, but must confess that he has committed

“mitted more than one shameful and unworthy action.”

THE blush of conscious guilt glowed on my cheeks while Don RAMIREZ uttered this quotation. The observation is true. What mortal has been *integer vite scelerisque purus*? Is it you, VANILLO? If you think so, you must have forgot the way in which you discharged the pious commission of the Licentiate SALABLANCA, and the dropfical patient in the hospital of MURCIA. You best know the manner in which you obtained from them those seducing pistoles which Don RAMIREZ induced you to expend. Truly you impute dishonourable actions to him with a good grace. Are you not a thousand times more guilty than he was?

THESE reflections were silently made without interrupting PRADO, who continued his history in this manner:

DOCTOR CANIZARES, perceiving that I totally neglected my studies, and not being ignorant of the cause of it, privately exhorted me, in a friendly though philosophic manner, to discontinue my visits to Signiora DALFA and her niece; but the only effect

effect of his remonstrance was a restraint of three days ; for on the fourth I renewed my acquaintance with her as usual, in despite of his admonitions ; and the Doctor, piqued at the ill success of his eloquence, not only threatened to inform my father of my misconduct, but he extended his care of me so far as to put his threats in execution ; in consequence of which I shortly after received a letter from my father Don BALTHAZAR DE PRADO, in which, without any expression of discontent, he commanded me to return to CORITA immediately. I obeyed the injunction without hesitation ; and soon after my arrival he addressed me, with great complacency, in the following manner :

“ My dear son, your neglect of the admonitions of your tutor was not the reason of my recalling you so suddenly from the University ; but, as you have now attained a proper age, and acquired a sufficient stock of learning to answer all the purposes I have in view, it is time to think of establishing you in life. Don RODERIGO DE CALDERONA, the Duke of

“ LERMA'S

“LERMA’s Secretary, or I might rather
“say colleague, is my particular friend ;
“and I trust he will procure you some
“office under Government. I have al-
“ready informed him of my intention to
“send you, under his auspices, to MADRID.
“He will, I am assured, receive and treat
“you as the son of his dearest friend. I do not
“however mean to confine you to the drud-
“gery of the civil departments of office, and
“therefore, if you prefer a situation in the
“Army, he will, from his interest as Com-
“mander of the German Guards, procure
“you a commission in one of the regi-
“ments; but let me advise you to reflect
“seriously before you adopt your line in
“life.”

ON my arrival at MADRID about two months after this exhortation, I immediately waited on DON RODERIGO, who no sooner read the letter of introduction which my father had written to him, than he received me, notwithstanding the natural phlegm and haughtiness of his temper, with every demonstration of civility and friendship. He asked me what profession
I in-

I intended to pursue, and the kind of appointment I wished to procure. On my telling him that I had not yet determined upon the subject, he requested me, whenever I should be enabled to make up my mind, to come to him, and added, that he would exert his best endeavours to assist me; requesting me, at the same time, to assure his good old friend, my father, that no consideration should induce him to neglect the interests of his son.

DELIGHTED at being thus favourably received by a man whose power was capable of achieving whatever he pleased, I seized on every opportunity to inspect into the nature of the civil and military employments, in order to find out which of them was most likely to suit my inclination. The behaviour and manner of living of both these orders were equally flattering to youthful vanity. When I observed the lowest clerks in their respective offices acting the parts of petty Ministers of State, I determined to choose the civil department; but when I saw Subalterns assuming the air and authority of Commanders in Chief,

I declared for the Army. I wavered a long time, undetermined which line to chuse; but, at length, I preferred the sword to the pen; and on informing Don RODERIGO of the choice I had made, he not only promised me an Ensigncy, but, in about two months afterwards, presented me with the colours. Forgetting from that moment that I was merely a school-boy, without either wisdom or experience, I pressed myself into the company of my Brother Officers, who, I must confess, generally encouraged the advances I made to keep them company. Among other military acquaintances which I formed, was one with a Lieutenant of the name of STEINBOC; and the natural conformity of our dispositions soon united us so closely, that we were almost inseparable. This Officer was about eight-and-twenty years of age, extremely elegant in his person and affable in his manners, of high spirit, extraordinary understanding, and incorruptible integrity.

SUCH a friend might have proved a second MENTOR to a wild and giddy youth who had not yet attained the twentieth year
of

of his age; but unfortunately he stood in great need of a preceptor himself; for his passions, like mine, were strong and irregular; and, if he had undertaken to guide my conduct, we should certainly have resembled the blind leading the blind. Pleasure, it will easily be conceived, was the great delight of two such companions, and our parents kindly furnished us with the means of pursuing it. STEINBOC, in particular, frequently received such large remittances from Germany, which was his native country, as placed him in a condition to treat our female acquaintances, not only frequently, but with magnificence. One day this favourite associate addressed himself to me in high spirits: "DON RAMIREZ," said he, "I have a valuable discovery to communicate to you. I can introduce you to a house where you will see two young and beautiful Genoese; they are sisters, and live under the protection of an aunt, who has lately come to reside with them at MADRID."

STEINBOC had scarcely pronounced these words, when I pressed him so anxiously to conduct

conduct me immediately to the house of these lovely foreigners, that while he acceded to my request he could not help smiling at my impatience.

THE moment I fixed my eyes upon the aunt, I thought I beheld Signiora DALMA; so much did she resemble that Lady; but while I was gazing upon her amiable person with exquisite pleasure, her two nieces appeared in all their charms, and, unfortunately for their aunt, justly diverted my admiration. My eyes could behold no other objects than these youthful beauties, whose brilliancies dazzled my sight, and made the deepest impression on my heart. Donna THEODORA, the eldest sister, delighted me by her sensible aspect and modest mien, but the life and vivacity of the younger was quite enchanting.

HAVING enjoyed the felicity of a long conversation, we quitted the house, and as we walked along the street, "To which of the sisters," said STEINBOC, "do you give the preference?"

"You ask me, my friend," replied I, "a very embarrassing question; both of them

“them seem to me so amiable, that I
“really am at a loss to decide how to give a
“preference; but if I were absolutely
“obliged to chuse, I think I should give
“my hand to THEODORA.”

“And I,” cried STEINBOC, “should
“throw myself at the feet of Donna INNES;
“not that she is, in my opinion, more
“lovely than her sister; but that a certain
“*je ne sçai quoi* inclines me to her. A
“whimsical idea has just occurred to me,”
continued he, laughing; “suppose, for the
“sake of diversion, we were to make love
“to them: do you address THEODORA,
“and I will attach myself to Donna INNES.
“Let us devote our time to the service of
“the charming Genoese; make warm and
“passionate love to them; and spare no
“pains to induce them to listen favourably
“to our vows; they well deserve to be
“ranked among the number of our con-
“quests.”

ACQUIESCING, with heedless temerity,
in this romantic proposal, we resolved to
commence our operations on the afternoon
of the ensuing day. After paying our
respects,

respects, in flattering expressions, to the aunt, and seating ourselves by the side of these lovely charmers, we opened, with insidious gallantry, the soft siege of love, in which, as STEINBOC was in the habit of associating with the Actresses of the Theatre, and I had recently left the School of Signiora DALFA, we respectively acquitted ourselves with admirable dexterity. To the usual entertainments we contrived to add a collation of fruits and other refreshments, of which, after great ceremony, they agreed at last to partake; and, having passed a very agreeable evening, we bade them adieu.

WHILE we were walking home, we respectively asked each other what impressions we had been capable of making on the hearts of our mistresses. "As for myself," said STEINBOC, "I perceive that Donna INNES is a lively laughing girl, who turns every thing I say into ridicule. I could not persuade the giddy girl to listen to me seriously."—"And as to myself," said I, "I find, that with all my rhetoric, I am no farther advanced than you are. THEODORA, during our conversation, pre-
served

“served a cold silence, and scarcely seemed
“to listen to my discourse: this may, per-
“haps, be a feint, but it looks inauspicious,
“and if you will take my advice we shall
“rest upon our arms; the siege we have
“undertaken will be of too long duration.”
—“You must not be so soon discouraged,”
replied the German; “it is the common
“subtlety of the sex to appear insensible to
“the first addresses of those lovers whose
“hearts they wish to inflame. Let us
“continue our addresses, and rely upon
“my prediction, that we shall soon see
“these provoking Genoese change their
“behaviour.”

THIS prediction proved true. They be-
came, day after day, more tractable.
Donna INNES began by degrees to turn an
attentive ear to the blandishments of STEIN-
BOC, and the cold bosom of THEODORA
appeared sensible to mine. This change of
sentiment, although it might fairly be attri-
buted to the monies we began to expend on
them, and to the rich presents we sent
them, we ascribed, in the vanity of
youth, to the influence of personal merit.

But

But our success was attended with very serious and unexpected consequences; for while we were thus endeavouring to inspire the bosoms of these beautiful Genoese with love, the subtle passion stole imperceptibly into our own. Donna INNES gained by degrees such an empire over the heart of STEINBOC, that he could not refrain from making her serious promises of marriage; and although I resisted, for some time, the persuasions of Donna THEODORA, who anxiously exerted herself to involve me in a similar folly, I was at length vanquished by the tears which my resistance caused her to shed, and I made her the same promise which my friend had made to her sister.

HAVING gained these points, we were considered as husbands elect, and permitted to act like masters of the house. We accordingly requested, that the aunt would no longer suffer the visits of two Gentlemen whose manners had for some time excited our jealousy; for, as the family were now entirely supported at our expence, we thought it not unreasonable that we should superintend and direct its pleasures.

ONE

ONE of these objectionable visitors was an Alcade, and the other an old Governor, who, while they pretended to admire the aunt, were secretly directing their attention towards her nieces. Their personal figures, it is true, did not render them very formidable rivals, but we had been informed, that they were reputed to be immensely rich, and extremely lavish of money in the indulgence of their desires.

THE affectionate aunt, who knew well what she was about, immediately made this sacrifice to our fears, for which we thought ourselves under great obligation; but the sequel will discover the extent of her claim upon our gratitude for this seeming condescension.

RECEIVING soon afterwards a letter from CORITA, informing me that my father was so dangerously ill, that the physician despaired of saving his life, I shewed it to DON RODERIGO DE CALDERONA, who seemed to be greatly affected by the danger of his friend; and after telling me, that by the strict rules of the service I was not permitted on any account to quit my station,
but

but that, under these circumstances, I must visit my father, and that he would take all the consequences of my absence upon himself, he desired me to set off immediately : “ And may the joy,” continued he, “ which “ DON BALTHAZAR will feel on seeing you, “ contribute to preserve his life.”

I COULD not, however, leave MADRID without bidding adieu to my charming THEODORA, who, when I announced the occasion of it, was so affected with affliction at my departure, that she fainted into my arms, and it was with great difficulty that her aunt, her sister, STERNBOC, and myself, brought her to her senses. She uttered indeed such distressful cries, and shed such torrents of tears upon the occasion, that I might have suspected they did not proceed from the natural feelings of the heart. These testimonies of attachment, whether real or affected, made great impression upon my mind. I was forced to tear myself from her arms. The moment I was free I mounted my horse and travelled with all possible diligence to CORITA, where I found DON BALTHAZAR dying, or, to speak with more propriety, nearly dead. Unable to
speak,

Speak, and totally deprived of his faculties, his departing spirit seemed only to wait for my arrival; for he expired, almost instantly, in my arms. Unnatural indeed must my feelings have been, if the death of a parent so deserving of regret had not deeply wounded my heart; and, shedding a torrent of tears, I followed his remains to the grave, with unfeigned affliction. His estate, which was clear and unincumbered, and of which I took immediate possession, made me unexpectedly master of a fortune to the amount of fifty thousand crowns. I let part of the landed property for a thousand crowns a-year, and turned the remainder into money as soon as possible, with a view to return to THEODORA, whose absence I began to feel it irksome to sustain. My impatience indeed to see her again was so great, continued RAMIREZ, that I remember I quitted SALAMANCA without performing the promise I made to call upon you, but the distraction of my mind will I trust form my excuse. On my arrival at MADRID, I immediately visited my friend STEINBOC, to enquire how Donna THEODORA had conducted herself during my absence.

fence. "With great prudence," said he; "I have not seen any visitor enter the house; and, what ought to afford you still greater satisfaction, she has not enjoyed one moment of tranquillity since you left her. At least, I can assure you, that when I have seen her, she has appeared to be oppressed by the deepest melancholy. Justice obliges me to render to you this testimony of her fidelity."—"You give me new raptures," exclaimed I, "in affording me this agreeable information. How sweet it is to the mind of a lover, who feels a strong attachment to his mistress, to be convinced that she is worthy of his affection!"—"Since you are so satisfied with the conduct of THEODORA," replied my friend, "you will now of course make her your wife."—"Yes," replied I, "immediately: but have you, my friend, relinquished your resolution to espouse DONNA INNES?"—"No: on the contrary," said he, "I intend inviolably to preserve the faith I have sworn to her; it is the warmest wish of my heart."

THE charming Genoese, so far from contradicting the report of STEINBOC, exhibited, on seeing me, a thousand demonstrations of tenderness. In proportion to the depth of her affliction on my departure was the extravagance of her joy on my return.

To prove the satisfaction I felt on finding myself so sincerely beloved, I freely disbursed my money in making presents not only to THEODORA and her sister, but even to her aunt; and by liberalities, thus judiciously bestowed, as well as by balls, feasts, concerts, little collations, and a thousand other idle expences, I dissipated, by regular degrees, more than a moiety of my patrimony. My prodigality, like my joy, was unbounded; and I should, without doubt, have ruined myself completely, if, by the interposition of Heaven, we had not discovered what was passing during our absence at the house of our Genoese.

THE kind aunt, who had rendered us so sensible of the sacrifice she had made by dismissing the Alcade and the Governor from her

her house, as I have already mentioned, had concerted her measures so adroitly with these Gentlemen, that they were introduced almost every evening the moment we went away.

ON receiving this information, which, on examination, appeared to be well-founded, we held a council to deliberate on the species of vengeance it would be proper to inflict on the deceitful harpies: to burn their house and put our rivals to death were the first ideas which rage presented to our minds; but, as our anger subsided, we became by degrees more rational, and judging it prudent to avoid all publicity upon the subject, which would only render us ridiculous in every company, and raise a laugh at our expence, we prudently resolved not to announce our disastrous adventure, but to punish the perfidy of these female deceivers with silent contempt.

* * * * *

DON RAMIREZ DE PRADO here ended his narrative, with an observation, that the characters of women are not easily developed. "Who," said he, "could have imagined
"these

" these Genoese capable of playing us such
 " a trick. Ah! the devils. But I ought
 " to congratulate my good fortune in having
 " saved my estate of a thousand crowns a
 " year; for, if their tricks had not been
 " discovered, they would not have left me
 " a single pistole. This event," continued
 RAMIREZ, " produced much serious re-
 " flection in my mind, and made me resolve
 " to renounce the pursuits of gallantry; and
 " since that period I have lived a regular life,
 " of which my purse has felt the good effects."

" AND your friend STEINBOC," said I;
 " has he also been deluded into wisdom."

" I do not know what is become of him,"
 said PRADO, " he left MADRID, about three
 " weeks ago, to return to GERMANY, and
 " I have not yet heard from him; but he
 " has sworn to me a hundred times, that he
 " will, throughout the remainder of his
 " life, keep a watchful eye upon his heart;
 " for LOVE, he says, is the gulph of misery.
 " If you, GONZALES, are possessed of wealth,
 " let me advise you to follow our example;
 " for wealth was intended to adorn the
 " bowers of happiness, and not to be bu-
 " ried in the gulph of misery."

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-SECOND.

A Description of the Characters VANILLO supped with the same Evening; and the Debate in which he engaged with one of the Company.

I SHOULD have prolonged the conversation with Don RAMIREZ if the host had not interrupted it by announcing, that the Gentlemen who generally supped at the hotel were already seated in the room, and that supper would be served up immediately.

PRADO enquired whether Don GASPARD DE MESSAGNA was there, and the host informed him, that he would certainly attend.

“So much the better,” replied PRADO, “we shall see an original character whose conversation will entertain us. Prepare, VANILLO, to behold a Nobleman in full blown pride, a little *Hidalgo*, from the borders

" borders of ALCALA, whose whole estate
 " consists of a thatched cottage, and, at
 " most, three acres of land. Proud of
 " possessing so fine a domain, he conceives
 " himself as rich as a Grandee; and if, in
 " walking around this decayed shovel,
 " which he arrogantly calls his *Chateau*, he
 " happens to meet a sportsman, " I warn
 " you, Sir," he cries, " from trespassing
 " upon my estate." " This coxcomb," con-
 " tinued PRADO, " can only talk of his nobi-
 " lity; he pretends a descent from the
 " Royal line of PEDAGUS; and boasts of
 " being related, either by consanguinity or
 " alliance, to the noblest families of the
 " Monarchy."

DESIROUS of observing the manners of so
 singular a character, I accompanied my
 friend PRADO into the eating-room, where
 ten or twelve Gentlemen, to whom we paid
 the usual salutation, were already assem-
 bled; and, as soon as the supper was served
 up, placed ourselves next to each other at
 the table. Considering the place we were in,
 I was not surprised, on examining the com-
 pany, to find it a very motley groupe.

A diminutive figure of rather an unconciliating countenance, and whose person was extremely ridiculous and grotesque, first attracted my attention, and I immediately concluded that this must be Don GASPARD DE MESSAGNA; but the moment he opened his mouth to speak, all doubt was immediately converted into absolute certainty.

"GENTLEMEN," said he, interrupting the subject of conversation, "I fancy you will not be sorry to know what I heard this morning at the King's Levee. A Nobleman of the first distinction, and a near relation of mine, and my very intimate friend, addressed me with an air of secrecy, saying, "Cousin, I am happy to meet you here, as it affords me opportunity to inform you of some news which is not yet made public:" and drawing me aside, whispered in my ear, "OSSUNA is recalled from the Government of NAPLES; he has received orders to repair instantly to MADRID, to answer certain high misdemeanors which are imputed to him: he is accused of having misapplied the public money, and of having committed various

" various other crimes, the least of which is
 " sufficient to disgrace and ruin him, if he
 " cannot, which I very much doubt, clear
 " himself with honour." This is the infor-
 " mation, word for word, which my noble
 " friend communicated to me, and I con-
 " fess that I am of his opinion. I appre-
 " hend the loss of his employments will not
 " be his only punishment; for he has per-
 " petrated crimes which will well warrant
 " such an enquiry here as may send him to
 " his account hereafter. If he should be
 " impeached I will not answer for his
 " life."

WHY I could not hear the Duke of Os-
 suna's conduct arraigned in these terms
 without feeling my mind inflamed with in-
 dignation, is to me inexplicable; for,
 considering what had passed between us at
 PALERMO, I had so little reason to love
 him, that I might, perhaps, have been ex-
 cused in feeling a certain degree of hatred.
 But, as if it were the privilege of great
 men to be always dear to those who have
 once been in their service, whatever cause
 of discontent they may have given, I could

not avoid warmly undertaking his defence.

"RESTRAM, Sir," said I, interrupting MESSAGNA hastily, "these licentious imputations. This noble Lord is the greatest character of the age. Let those only who know him speak of his conduct. Ask the Sicilians, over whom he presided before he went to NAPLES, what opinion they entertain of him; and they will unanimously tell you that they wish for his return."

DON GASPARD, at these words, turning to me with a haughty and contemptuous look, replied, "I did not expect to find at this table any man who would dare to defend the Viceroy's conduct. You are apparently one of those private friends whom he kept in pay to resound his heroic deeds."

"You, Sir," replied I, "require no inducement to calumniate him."

"Whoever you are," replied the Hidalgo, "you are very bold in daring to contradict me."

"You

"You are much bolder," replied I, "to arraign, in such terms, the conduct of a Viceroy, whose high station the poor owner of a paltry cottage ought to respect."

"Insolent fellow," cried DON GASPARD in a bullying manner, "if the respect I entertain for this company did not restrain me, I would instantly teach you the danger of trifling with a man of my quality."

"How! you teach me," exclaimed I, rising in fury from my chair, "I defy your threats: come out immediately if you dare."

MISSAGNA disposed himself to accept my challenge, and attempted to leave the room; but the whole company interested themselves in the quarrel, and forced us to resume our seats.

THE courage I exhibited at MADRID will perhaps appear astonishing after what I have already confessed respecting my conduct at FLORENCE in my adventure with MATADORI. But, to tell the whole truth, exclusive of having on the present occasion

the support of an Officer in the German Guards, I conjectured that Don GASPARD was not more brave than myself. I had some knowledge of the characteristics of cowardice, and I observed, by the countenance of Don GASPARD, that he was afraid of me.

RESEATED at the table, we affected to dart looks of unextinguished rage at each other, like two combatants who have been reluctantly separated and only wait for an opportunity to renew the fight. When the company rose from their seats to retire to repose, Don GASPARD, on quitting the room, shook his fist at me with a fierce and menacing look, which I returned in the same way; and some of the Gentlemen, conceiving from this circumstance that it was my intention to follow him, thought proper, in order to prevent future danger, to accompany him home; while Don RAMIREZ, under the same idea, refused to quit me until I retired to bed.

FAME is frequently acquired by actions of an equivocal nature, and PRADO, as well as the rest of the company, conceived from my conduct in this affair the highest opinion

nion of my spirit and courage; but it is not extraordinary that they should be deceived, for I began myself to think that I was become brave, and did not detect my error until, having been in bed for several hours, I found that my agitation deprived me of my rest. "What an idiot must I be," said I, "so warmly to espouse the cause of a man I have so little reason to love. I may have occasion to repent of my rashness. Don GASPARD is perhaps not so tame an animal as I have fancied him. What certainty have I that he has not, at this moment, resolved to send me a challenge. Alas! if I knew it to be his intention I would rise, and, as I have not parted with my whole equipage," for I had happily a good mule still remaining, "instantly quit MADRID."

AFTER I had passed a night of torment and inquietude, my friend PRADO, early in the morning, entered my apartment and dispelled my fears, by informing me of a fact from which I derived a higher degree of joy than I thought it prudent to reveal.

"Don GASPARD," said he, "regardless
 "of all opinion on the motive of his de-
 "parture, returned to his cottage this
 "morning at break of day. You must
 "confess there are great cowards in the
 "world. Alarmed by the specimen of
 "spirit you exhibited last night, he has,
 "thank Heaven, sneaked suddenly away to
 "his cottage."

RAMIREZ, as he uttered these words,
 burst into a violent fit of laughter, which,
 no doubt, would have been redoubled at
 my expence, had he known that the flight
 of my enemy was the only measure that
 could have prevented my own: a fact
 which my vanity carefully prevented him
 from discovering: on the contrary, I af-
 fected to join with him in laughing at my
 antagonist; but, to tell the truth, it was a
 forced convulsion, for I could not in con-
 science throw the shaft of ridicule at Don
 GASPARD without feeling it recoil upon
 myself.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-THIRD.

VANILLO, in going to the King's Levee, meets his former Master, Don HENRY OF BOLOGNA, who takes him to his House, and shews him a new Kind of Register.

DON RAMIREZ, being obliged to mount guard the whole morning, left the hotel to discharge his duty, and I quitted it shortly afterwards with an intention to feast my eyes with the pleasure of observing the splendid concourse of Grantees, who daily attend the Royal Levee. Being neatly dressed, I may venture to assert, that I run no risk of those *quizzings*, which, in these resorts, awkward and unfashionable figures are fated to endure.

Just as I was entering the palace, a Gentleman of whom I had some recollection met me; and, on further view, I recognised Don HENRY OF BOLOGNA, my late master. There are certain persons out of

place, who cannot meet those in whose service they were employed without shame and remorse; but I was so far from resembling this crew, that I advanced boldly towards Don HENRY, and saluted him with an easy but respectful air. Altered as I was in my dress, in my manners, and in my person, he immediately recollected me, and addressing me with a smile, "VANILLO," cried he, "How long have you been at MADRID?"

"I ARRIVED yesterday," said I; "you perhaps imagined that I was still in the service of the Duke of OSSUNA."

"No," replied he: "When you quitted SICILY, my friend QUIVILLO wrote me an account of the circumstances which occasioned your dismissal; but either appearances are very deceitful, or you are now in a prosperous situation."

"APPEARANCES do not deceive you at present," replied I. "The stream of my fortunes has never before flowed to so high a mark; thanks to my late uncle the Surgeon of MURCIA, who, by his last will, has kindly enabled me to support
" the

“the character of a master the rest of my days.”

THE behaviour of Don HENRY immediately changed on discovering that I was a Gentleman; and, addressing me with great affability and politeness, he assured me that the intelligence of my good fortune overwhelmed him with joy. “I sincerely congratulate you,” said he, “on so happy a change of circumstances; but what affords me a still greater pleasure than even your uncle’s liberality, is, that you appear not to have lost that delightful hilarity with which Nature has so happily endowed you. But, my dear VANILLO,” continued he, in the most affectionate manner, “this place is unfavourable to the gratification I wish to indulge in conversing with you: come to my house:—Will it be agreeable to you to dine with me to-day?”

THE regard I felt for Don HENRY rendered me too sensible of the honour he offered me to refuse his invitation; and accordingly, stepping into his carriage, which was in waiting for him, we drove

immediately to his house. On entering the room, "Come, GONZALES," said he, "let us banish ceremony. You are no longer my domestic; nor have I now any authority over you. Let us forget the past, and live in future upon terms of friendly familiarity with each other."

"WHY, Sir, forget?" replied I; "I should be ungrateful not to remember the past, while you thus generously wish it to be forgotten. My situation, while I was with you, was extremely happy."

"WAS it possible for me to make it otherwise?" said he; "you served me with fidelity and affection. But come, my friend," continued he, "I shall no longer attend to any of the rights of my passed superiority, except that I shall use the same style of familiarity by the privilege of friendship as I formerly did from our then relative situation *."

SUCH

* The original is "*Je ne vous garde des droits de ma supériorité passée, que celui de te tutoyer par amitié*"

The verb *tutoyer* signifies, to treat and treat a person; and in France the *tutoyement* was frequently in use between

masters

SUCH was the kind of conversation which passed between us before dinner was announced; and during our repast, Don HENRY obliged me, by a thousand questions upon the subject of my situation in Sicily, to give him a circumstantial detail of all transactions during my residence in Italy; which I did, contrary to my usual custom, without any violation of truth. Speaking of QUIVIELLO, I enlarged upon his merits with sentimental eloquence: "I can never forget," said I, with emotion, "the grief he felt when I took leave of him;—he was really afflicted at my departure;—while the perfidious THOMAS, the Viceroy's confidential Valet, although he affected to overwhelm me with caresses and demonstrations of affection, felt, as I clearly discovered, a secret joy at my disgrace. I can therefore assure you, that I have erased and blotted this traitor from my register of friendship."

masters and their servants, and between intimate friends. The TRANSLATOR therefore, not recollecting any corresponding word in the English language, has endeavoured to represent rather the sentiment than the expression of the Author.

AT the word "register," Don HENRY burst into laughter, exclaiming, "So then, VANILLO, you have not, I perceive, forgot the register."

"It is continually recurring to my mind," said I, "and has frequently prevented me from becoming the dupe of pretended friends."

"WITH a view to the same effects," said Don HENRY, "I have since then procured another preservative. When I first shewed you my volume, you advised me, if you recollect, to put the fidelity of my female acquaintances to a similar test, and I have followed your advice."

"I AM delighted, Sir," replied I, "this may be truly called writing for the public benefit, and labouring for the welfare of society. I hope you have no objection to shew it to your friends, if I may be permitted to rank myself among the number."

DON HENRY smiled at my familiarity, and, rising from the table, conducted me into his Study; where taking down a volume of the same form, but of a lesser size,

size than the former, he put it into my hands, saying, "there is a catalogue, from the first to the last, of those beauties who have enslaved my heart. You will infer from the numbers of them, that I began at a very early period of life to devote myself to the service of the sex; and true it is, that before I had attained the age of puberty, I had made more than one sacrifice on the altar of Love."

On opening the volume, I perceived the name of Donna CLARA DE CESPEDez, written in large characters in the frontispiece. "This Lady, Sir," said I, "appears to have been the first disturber of your heart."

"Yes," replied he, "she was the object of my first love. Scarcely had I attained fifteen years of age, when I became acquainted with Donna CLARA, who was nearly of the same age. Our parents being neighbours and intimate friends, I had free access every day to the house, and we enjoyed each other's company without ceremony or reserve. We were considered as children, over whose actions
" it

"it was not necessary to watch; but our
 "conduct very soon began to require at-
 "tention. Nature had already enabled us to
 "feel the pleasures of love, and love soon
 "taught us to express the feelings of the
 "heart: but scarcely had DONNA CLARA
 "learned the language of lovers, than the
 "capricious girl employed it in favour of
 "a rival; a circumstance which clearly
 "evinces that there is a germ of incon-
 "stancy and infidelity implanted in fe-
 "male minds, which sooner or later sprouts
 "forth."

"DONNA CLARA, then," said I, "was
 "the first female who deceived you. But
 "let us pass to the next." I accordingly
 turned over the leaf of this curious re-
 gister, where the name "*STELLA*, sur-
 named *BOQUETTA*," struck my eye.

"STELLA," said DON HENRY, "was
 "the object of my second attachment. A
 "majestic deportment, a fine shape, eyes
 "brighter than the stars, lips richer and more
 "ruby than the budding rose, from whence
 "she acquired the name *Boquetta*, placed me
 "among the number of her admirers; and
 "induced

“induced me to make a declaration of my
“love. I had not only the happiness to please
“her, but to receive from her an avowal of
“her approbation. Our hearts seemed to be
“riveted to each other, and I made over-
“tures of marriage to her; but on the
“morning of the day appointed for our
“nuptials, a rich citizen proposed to set-
“tle his whole fortune upon her, and she
“immediately accepted his hand, and left
“me to meditate on her inconstancy.”

“DONNA EUGENIA ALVARADO, the
“next Lady with whom I fell in love,”
continued Don HENRY, “repaid my ten-
“derness with equal infidelity. I adored
“this divine beauty; her graceful figure
“and her lively wit enchanted me; and
“as I was not in a situation, either with re-
“spect to age, person, or fortune, to be
“contemned, I had the pleasure to expe-
“rience a favourable reception. Time in-
“creased our fondness, and we inter-
“changed the most solemn promises of
“eternal fidelity to each other; but, on
“the evening of the day which was fixed
“for the consummation of our happiness,

“EUGENIA

“ EUGENIA was carried off by a young
 “ Nobleman; and when I found that, daz-
 “ zled by the superior splendour of my
 “ rival, the elopement was made with her
 “ own consent, the news was like a thun-
 “ derbolt to my mind.

“ FEELING myself thus sacrificed to the
 “ avarice of STELLA and the ambition of
 “ EUGENIA, and sensibly afflicted by a re-
 “ collection of the perfidy I had before
 “ experienced, I determined to guard my
 “ heart in future against the intrusion of
 “ love. I enjoyed a period of six
 “ months, without feeling even a tempta-
 “ tion to violate my vow; and the
 “ tranquillity which reigned in my
 “ bosom excited a degree of self-applause;
 “ or rather inspired my mind with an idea
 “ that the three successive disappointments
 “ I had experienced, had sealed the source
 “ of sensibility in my heart. Fatal error!
 “ for I no sooner saw Donna HELENA
 “ PACHECO, than my bosom burned with
 “ fires more ardent than those I had extin-
 “ guished. In endeavouring to win the
 “ affections

“affections of my lovely HELEN, I dis-
“puted the prize against twenty formidable
“rivals, and, sacrificing them all to me,
“she at length consented to make me happy.
“But while we were preparing to celebrate
“our nuptials, and Hymen was lighting his
“torch to lead us to the altar, my future
“spouse happened one night to dream that
“she saw me at the feet of a rival beauty ;
“and the fancy had fixed itself so forcibly
“on her mind, that she considered it,
“when she awoke, as a secret warning
“that her approaching nuptials were in-
“auspicious. You will, however, without
“doubt, expect to hear that an objection
“so visionary vanished with the return of
“reason ; but, alas ! neither the advice of
“her female friends nor my eloquence could
“prevent this ridiculous phantasy from in-
“terrupting our union.”

I COULD not refrain from bursting into
a fit of laughter at this trait of female
superstition ; and I have no doubt but I
should have been equally entertained by
the variety of ways in which the future
mistresses of Don HENRY violated their
faith ;

faith; but at this moment two Cavaliers of his acquaintance entered the room, which obliged us to restore this register of female infidelity to its place; the writer of it not being, like some authors, disposed to publish his confessions to the world.

[illegible]

CHAPTER

CHAPTER

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-FOURTH.

The Characters of the two Cavaliers, and the Subject of their Visit to Don HENRY.

THESE Gentlemen were Knights of the Order of St. JACQUES, and such great politicians, that, fearful of expressing their sentiments in the hearing of a stranger, they took Don HENRY on one side, and whispered something in his ear.

IMAGINE from this circumstance that my company was inconvenient to them, I took my leave of my kind master, who would not suffer me to depart before I had promised to call upon him again the very first opportunity.

As I walked along the streets, I observed people clustering together in small parties, talking to each other with great emotion in a low tone of voice and in a mysterious manner, and conjecturing, from this circumstance, that some extraordinary event had

had taken place or was impending, I enquired of my host, on arriving at my hotel, if he could inform me of the cause of this public commotion.

"It is only," replied he, with great indifference, "a rumour throughout the city, which interests those who are fond of news, that the Duke of LERMA has resigned; some are sorry for it, and others rejoice at the event; as for myself, I hope it is only a false report, for I have always heard more good than bad of this Minister; but when more bad than good prevails in the report of such a character, one must stick to what one knows for fear of worse."

WHILE the host was thus disclosing his sentiments, it occurred to me that the two cavaliers had visited Don HENRY for the purpose of communicating to him this news, and of obtaining his opinion of the probable consequences of the event; and Don RAMIREZ, who at that instant came in from the city, confirmed the report.

RAMIREZ

RAMIREZ appeared so thoughtful and discontented, that I asked him what was the matter; but, instead of giving any answer, he conducted me to his apartment, and, placing himself on a chair by my side, uttered a profound sigh. "What can "this mean!" exclaimed I; "you alarm "me: have you heard any disagreeable "news?"

"VERY disagreeable news indeed," replied PRADO; "news which shocks me "extremely. I have been to the house of "DON RODRIGO DE CALDERONA, where, "observing his domestics in the greatest "consternation, I enquired the cause of "it from an old Valet-de-Chambre, who "has long possessed the confidence of his "master. "My friend," said I, "permit "me to ask you the cause of that sorrow "which I perceive upon the countenance "of every person in this house; you know "the interest I take in every thing that "concerns the master of it."—"Ah, Signior Don RAMIREZ," said he, in a tone which sufficiently testified the affliction he felt, "all is lost; the Duke of LERMA "is

“is no longer the pilot of the State,”—
 “Oh Heavens!” exclaimed I, “what is it
 “you say! Can he possibly have lost the
 “favour of the Prince?”—“It is but too
 “true,” replied the Valet-de-Chambre;
 “and what will astonish the world more
 “than all the rest is, that his disgrace has
 “been effected by the machinations of his
 “own son. The Duke of UZEDA, excited
 “by hatred and envy against his father, and
 “contriving, for a long while past, to in-
 “jure him in the opinion of the King,
 “with whom UZEDA is a favorite, has at
 “length found means to effect his pur-
 “pose”; for the Monarch, by a letter
 “under his own hand, has ordered the
 “Duke to retire to such part of SPAIN as
 “he shall chuse, and enjoy the benefits his
 “liberality had bestowed. This is the cause
 “of that consternation which you have ob-
 “served; for you cannot be ignorant that

* Those who are acquainted with the works of LE
 SAGE will, on reading this passage, perhaps recollect the
 conversation which passed between GIL BLAS and the
 Duke of LERMA, in the Fourth Chapter of the Eighth
 Book of that celebrated Novel.—TRANSLATOR.

the

“the fall of Don RODERIGO DE CALDE-
“RONA must accompany that of the Duke
“of LERMA.”

“To console the Valet-de-Chambre, and
“to flatter his mind with a ray of hope,”
continued Don RAMIREZ, “I said to him,
“My good friend, notwithstanding all you
“have told me, I still doubt, from the
“known ascendancy which the Duke has
“long possessed over the mind of his Ma-
“jesty, this story of his disgrace. The
“Minister is replete with resources; and
“although the tempest may for a time howl
“around him, he will, I think, continue to
“elude its rage; perhaps even at this mo-
“ment he is more firmly fixed than ever
“in the good opinion of the King.”

DON RAMIREZ, the moment he had done
speaking, sunk into a state of gloomy thought;
and it was not difficult for me to divine the
cause of it. “Your interests, Don RAMI-
“REZ,” said I, “are too dear to me to
“have listened to this conversation with
“indifference; but it does not appear,
“from what you have said, that the dis-
“grace of the minister is yet certain. Wait

“until the report is confirmed before you
 “suffer it thus to afflict your mind. Perhaps,
 “as you suggested to the Valet-de-Chambre,
 “your patron has already regained the good
 “opinion of your Royal Master.”

“I wish most sincerely that it were so,”
 replied the disconsolate PRADO; “not so
 “much from a fear of losing in CALDE-
 “RONA a friend capable of advancing me
 “to fortune, as from a sense of gratitude for
 “the favours he has already conferred on
 “me.”

PRADO, having made this observation,
 changed the discourse. “Tell me, VA-
 “NILLO,” said he, “will you have the
 “kindness to do me a favour for which I
 “shall be thankful? Let us sup together
 “this evening in my apartment; for I can-
 “not, in the present state of my mind, re-
 “ceive any pleasure from public company:
 “the Duke’s disgrace and the removal of
 “his Secretary would probably become
 “the subject of conversation; and I might
 “be forced to endure expressions that
 “would give me excessive pain.”

“I com-

"I commend your prudence," said I;
 "it is wise to keep danger at a distance ;
 "perhaps," added I with a smile, "some
 "new MESSAGNA might prompt you to do
 "more for Don RODRIGO than I did for
 "the Duke of OSSUNA."

THE preceding chapter was which
 every reader now connects the Duke
 of Ossuna was mentioned, because, for the
 first time, the late topic of conversation at
 Madrid; and which was the subject of in-
 stant discussion, and as the Minister of the
 Duke's Councils and held audiences as usual,
 it was no longer considered to be without
 importance. In the present chapter, however,
 the Duke's Councils and held audiences as usual,
 it was no longer considered to be without
 importance. In the present chapter, however,

CHAP. two more of the Duke's Councils and held audiences as usual,
 it was no longer considered to be without
 importance. In the present chapter, however,
 the Duke's Councils and held audiences as usual,
 it was no longer considered to be without
 importance. In the present chapter, however,

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-FIFTH.

The important Event which happened a short Time afterwards at Court; the Changes which followed; and the Separation of VANILLO and RAMIREZ.

THE approaching dismissal with which every person now conceived the Duke of LERMA was threatened, became, for fifteen days, the sole topic of conversation at MADRID; after which the rumour insensibly decreased; and as the Minister assisted at the councils and held audiences as usual, it was at length conceived to be without foundation.

ABOUT two months afterwards, however, PHILIP THE THIRD, whose health had long been declining, fell sick and died; and the Prince his son, on ascending the throne, promoted DON GASPARD DE GUSMAN
Count

COUNT of OLIVAREZ, his favorite, to the high station of Prime Minister of SPAIN. The people, always charmed by novelty, rejoiced at the change; but it was an event extremely mortifying to the adherents to the SANDOVAL party, as well as to those who, like DON RAMIREZ, espoused the interests of DON RODERIGO DE CALDERONA. As for myself, I beheld these important revolutions with perfect indifference; for as I neither gained nor lost by the event, it was of no consequence to me whether the DUKE of LERMA or the Count OLIVAREZ governed the Monarchy. The only mortification I felt was, that my friend PRADO, being no longer able to rely upon the power of CALDERONA for promotion, had lost the best string to his bow.

THE new Minister, from the manner in which he was spoken of, raised an expectation that he intended to establish his authority on the complete ruin of his predecessor. All persons, who were in any degree obnoxious to him, were displaced, and the vacancies supplied with men avowedly attached to his interests. CALDERONA,

who was immediately stripped of all his employments and dismissed, was the first person who felt the authority of the new Minister. Riches are the great sweeteners of adversity, and CALDERONA quietly retired to the vicinity of VALLADOLID, the place of his nativity, in the fond expectation that he would be permitted to enjoy the immense fortune which he had acquired by means, as it was said, not very honourable; but he had scarcely reached his retreat, before he was publicly impeached of having been guilty of many high crimes and misdemeanors, and, after a long examination, condemned by the Judges, to whom the commission was directed, to be publicly beheaded.

OLIVAREZ, not contented with depriving this faithful friend to his predecessor of life, sought out every person who had been in any degree connected with the party, in order to remove them from their employments; and the research was made with such minuteness and care, that even Don RAMIREZ was deprived of his Ensigny, for no other reason than because it
had

had been given to him by CALDERONA. Great numbers of other deserving men also experienced a similar fate; and not one of the Duke of LERMA's party was suffered to retain his place.

PRADO (for disclosure of it is a justice I owe to the goodness of his heart) felt the ignominious exit of his benefactor with excruciating sensibility. Had he been the only son of the unfortunate Secretary he could not have discovered deeper affliction: his mind indeed seemed to be affected by sentiments more powerful than those of gratitude; for, conceiving the infamy of his patron's punishment might glance upon himself, he resolved to bid adieu for ever to MADRID.

"MY dear VANILLO," said he to me one day, "we must now once more part. I have determined to return to CORITA, and live, in the character of a private Gentleman, upon the patrimonial remains which I have, thank Heaven, preserved from the wreck of youthful folly."

I ENDEAVOURED to dissuade him from his design, but his resolution was unconquerable; and, after embracing each other with all the transports of real friendship, he bid me an eternal farewell!

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-SIXTH.

The new Acquaintance which VANILLO formed.

The History of DON MARCOS DE GIRAFA.

THE departure of Don RAMIREZ gave me great affliction for five or six days; for I had recorded his name in my register of friendship, and having had no reason to erase it, I could not help feeling the loss of his company and conversation. But, as sorrow was incompatible with my disposition, the uneasy sensations of my heart hourly diminished, and my mind soon resumed its natural hilarity. I must indeed confess, that a new acquaintance which I formed almost immediately after the departure of PRADO contributed very soon to remove all recollection of him from my mind. The name of my new companion

was DON MARCOS DE GIRAFA, a Gentleman, as he styled himself, of ASTURIA.

THE manner in which I linked my heart to that of the ASTURIAN's was as follows :

Not far from the Royal residence there was a coffee-house, much frequented by the idlers of the metropolis, which I generally visited every day. One morning, while I was drinking my chocolate, a person with a propoßing aspect entered the room, and, placing himself accidentally near me, we entered immediately into conversation. There was something in his character which struck me. His thoughts were just, his language correct, his elocution graceful, and his manners pleasing. He possessed a vivacious imagination, and was rather disposed to raillery ; a talent which he managed so dexterously as never to give offence.

SYMPATHY of disposition immediately attached us to each other ; and in a few days we were so closely united, that
a mu-

a mutual confidence took place. I disclosed to him all the memorable occurrences of my life; and he, in return, detailed his history to me in the following terms.

DON VINCENT DE GIRAFÀ, my father, having loyally devoted the greater part of his life and fortune to the service of his King, retired to the city of Quito, where he formed a comfortable union, of which I was the offspring. My parents, although they were far from being rich, loosely attended me a liberal education. I was attended by a variety of masters, and, ~~that~~ by a great proficiency in the points on which they thought the knowledge of this instrument would in future be serviceable, my parents appeared extremely anxious that I should excel. I made considerable progress also in the ar-

62 THE HISTORY OF

THE
HISTORY

OF

DON MARCOS DE GIRAFA.

DON VINCENT DE GIRAFA, my father, having loyally devoted the greater part of his life and fortune to the service of his King, retired to the city of OVIEDO, where he formed a matrimonial union, of which I was the sole offspring. My parents, although they were far from being rich, fondly afforded me a liberal education. I was attended by a variety of masters, and, among others, by a great proficient on the guitar; on which, as if they thought the knowledge of this instrument would in future be serviceable, my parents appeared extremely anxious that I should excel. I made considerable progress also in the art
of

of fencing; and if you add to these qualifications a light sprinkling of the belles lettres, you will have a tolerable idea of the extent of my erudition.

My father one day desired me to attend him in his study.

"My dear MARCOS," said he, "you are now seventeen years of age, and it is time you should make choice of some profession; for I will not suppose that you are inclined to live, like a *Sibarite*, in indolence and luxury. I propose to send you to seek your fortune at Court. You are not deficient in understanding; and possess, with a graceful person, the advantage of being a *Gentleman*. With these strings to your bow you cannot easily fail of success. Endeavour to obtain, if possible, the situation of Page to some great man: you may by this means make considerable advances. I will equip you properly, and put fifty pistoles in your pocket to enable you to wait conveniently for a favorable opportunity to procure a good station. Well, my boy,"

"boy," continued he, "does this scheme please you?"

"YES, Sir," replied I, with an excess of joy from which he drew the happiest presages, "I shall depart for MADRID whenever you think it proper; and my mind predicts that I shall not be long there without finding some person to whom my services may be useful."

THIS answer was highly pleasing to my father, who immediately provided for me a handsome suit of clothes, and put every thing which he judged necessary for this expedition into a state of preparation. When the day of departure arrived, "MARCOS," said he, embracing me with all the warmth of parental affection, "MARCOS, my dear boy, go! and may Heaven not only conduct you safely to MADRID, but aid your virtuous endeavours. Permit me, however, to recommend to your serious attention a piece of advice which you seem to stand in great need of. Guard, my dear boy, with unwearied vigilance, against the vivacity of your temper. You are naturally of a lively
"turn,

" turn, and must be conscious of this de-
 " fect. You not only indulge in laughter
 " yourself, but frequently excite it in others,
 " without seeming to recollect that you
 " are by birth a Spaniard and a Gentle-
 " man. Dismiss, therefore, this vicious
 " habit; be always serious, always grave,
 " whatever pleasantries you may either
 " hear or see: never, in short, quit that
 " gravity which so honourably distinguishes
 " Spaniards from all other Nations."

My father, having closed this important
 lesson, kindly counted out fifty pistoles,
 which he gave to me with his benediction.
 I departed, with the muleteers, for MA-
 DRID, and in eight days arrived safely in
 the metropolis.

I PROCEEDED to a hotel situated in the
 high-street of TOLEDO; the master of which
 had acquired the nick-name of *Monillo*, or
 the little Monkey; for he was scarcely so
 tall as *Sisyphus*, the dwarf of MARK AN-
 THONY. He possessed, however, a mind
 so whimsical and lively, that Spanish gra-
 vity was in great danger of forgetting itself
 in his company. My solemnity vanished
 the

the moment I beheld him; and when I heard him speak, his manner of expression was so humorous, that it was impossible to refrain from laughter. He was, however, notwithstanding all his oddities, very capable of giving seasonable and serviceable advice; for having informed him of the object of my journey, he drew me aside and addressed me in the following manner:

“Young Gentleman,” said he, “as you have an inclination to become a Page, I can perhaps afford you no inconsiderable service by introducing you to an old citizen, who, for a suitable recompence, makes it his business to recommend domestic mestics to such places as they wish to attain.”

“You will do me a great favour,” replied I, “by procuring me an interview with this agent; but at present I am not in a hurry.”

“I UNDERSTAND you,” replied MONILLO, “you intend first to see the world, and to lighten your pockets of a few pistoles; but take good care, my young man;

"man, there are certain *hawks* in the City
 "of MADRID always hovering, and ready
 "to pounce upon a new-flown pigeon *."
 And, indeed, the very first time I walked
 on THE PRADO, I met a young man, ac-
 companied by an elderly woman, who
 leered at me with so inviting an eye, that
 I could not refrain from joining them com-
 pany; and, to make bad worse, they ca-
 joled me so successfully that I was obliged,
 a few days afterwards, to implore MONILLO
 immediately to introduce me to the old
 Citizen he had before mentioned to me.

WE proceeded to the house of his
 friend, where we were obliged to wait until
 he had given successive audiences to two
 young men with whom he was previously
 engaged. On their being dismissed, we were
 introduced:

"SEIGNIOR CORTES," said MONILLO,
 "permit me to introduce to you a young
 "Gentleman, the only son of the most an-
 "tient family of ASTURIA. The mule-

* The original is—"Il y a dans cette ville de gail-
 "lards que faires le gousset des nouveaux débarqués."

FINIS

"teer,

"teer, who conducted him from OVIEDO
 "to MADRID, gave me this information,
 "and this is, you know, hearing facts
 "from the voice of truth. He is not one
 "of those miserable young Noblemen, who,
 "being unable to subsist on their poor
 "domains, esteem it a happiness to hold a
 "place in some family just risen into day:
 "he is a real Gentleman, whose father has
 "sent him to the Court to study polite
 "life; to unite himself to some character
 "of high distinction; and to find a pa-
 "tron whose interests may advance him in
 "the world."

"SEVENTH MONTELO," replied the old
 Citizen, "it is a sufficient recommendation
 "of this young Gentleman that you inter-
 "rest yourself in his behalf. I will render
 "him every service in my power. I know
 "what will suit him, and am at this moment
 "enabled to place him in the situation he
 "wishes to obtain. The Marquis of
 "ASTORGA, who is without doubt a man
 "of the highest quality, is now in want of a
 "page. Should you like this place?" con-
 tinued he, addressing himself to me.

"EXTREMELY well," replied I; "you have only to say in how much I am indebted to you for this favour."

"Oh! only a trifle," replied CORRES. "The situation of a Page is not very lucrative; and therefore, exclusive of the circumstance of your being recommended to me by my friend MONILLO, it would be unconscionable to make you pay much: two doubloons will be sufficient. But this is not the price," continued he, "to officers who have great salaries and numerous perquisites. For example: you observed, perhaps, the two Gentlemen who went away; the tallest of them is a Maître d'Hotel out of place, and I have procured him a salary of a thousand crowns a year, in the house of a noble Duke, who is celebrated for his hospitality; the other I have appointed Steward to a large estate, which is deeply incumbered with debt."

"AND how much," said MONILLO; "did you draw from the purses of these Gentlemen?"

"It cost the Maître d'Hotel," replied the Citizen, "two thousand crowns, and the Steward a thousand pistoles."

"By St. MATTHEW," exclaimed the Dwarf, "this is serving a friend gratuitously. Your conduct to them is very different from that which they will observe toward their masters."

CONFIDING in the promises of this old place-broker, that he would the ensuing morning enrol me among the Pages of the Marquis of ASTORGA, I released two doubloons, which were nearly the whole of my funds, and, putting them into his hand, returned to the hotel with my host, who, as we walked along, said, "you will do marvellously well at the house of the Marquis; I have frequently heard this Nobleman spoken of as a most amiable character."

"It is to you, Seigneur MONILLO," said I, "that I shall be indebted; and I cannot sufficiently thank you for your kindness."

THE ensuing day I waited on my old friend at the hour appointed, and he immediately

diately conducted me to the mansion of my intended master, where the splendor and magnificence which shone on every side struck me with astonishment: his house resembled rather the palace of a King than the dwelling of a subject.

My conductor carried me directly to the apartment of the Major-Domo, and whispered something in his ear; but whatever it was, the Major, as he leaned his ear toward the speaker, looked at me from time to time in a way which made me fancy that he was not dissatisfied with my appearance; and, when the old Citizen had finished his whisper, I was confirmed in this opinion; for the Major-Domo instantly addressed me in these words:

“Young man, from the excellent recommendation which Seignior Cortes has given me of you, I shall, as soon as you can be provided with a proper literary, receive you into the number of my domestic Pages; but from this day you will live in this mansion scot free.”

By these means I was engaged to perform the duties of a Page; but it is

one of the pleasing advantages of this station, that the yoke of servitude is scarcely felt, and the moment I was apparelled in the livery of my Lord, I conceived myself of great importance; adopted the sentiments of my brethren; and became disdainful of the humble honour of cup-bearing.

THE intoxication which sometimes seizes vulgar minds upon the sudden acquisition of high rank cannot be surprising, since the place even of Page could inspire a Gentleman with pride. The Marquis, it is true, was of so kind and accommodating a disposition, and took so much pains to soften the rigour of their servile condition by his conciliating manners, that his domestics of every description seemed to serve him less from duty than inclination. Instead of punishing their faults, he contrived excuses in their defence.

ONE day the father of a family of low condition complained to the Marquis that his Secretary had seduced his daughter, and demanded to have justice done. "But what," replied the Marquis, "would you have

“ have me do in this affair: my Secretary
“ is a Frenchman; and you know that
“ Frenchmen are by nature addicted
“ to gallantry, and accustomed to seduce
“ women; we must excuse it in them: but
“ if my porter, who is a German, and ad-
“ dicted to wine, had committed the crime
“ of which you accuse my Secretary, I
“ would have had him hanged.” In short,
the Marquis of ASTORGA was not one of
those characters, who are every moment at
variance with themselves, and with whom
it is necessary to watch the return of tem-
per to obtain their kindness. Exempt
from caprice, and uniform in his conduct,
all persons who solicited his patronage were
received with politeness, and assured of his
interest in the warmest and most affectionate
terms; but, in truth, the moment they
were gone he forgot all that had passed,
and never recollected his promise until he
saw them again. I was myself deceived by
his specious manners. A person who was
desirous of a place in the office of the
Minister, offered me a hundred pistoles
to procure it for him through the interest

of the Marquis. I undertook the business, and confidently solicited my master to recommend the man I named.

“I SHALL do it with pleasure, my young friend,” replied the Marquis, with an obliging voice; “I am happy to find you sensible of my inclination to serve you: you may assure your friend that he shall immediately be appointed to the place. I will make a point of it with the Minister.”

FEARFUL of being considered importunate, I permitted more than a month to elapse before I renewed my application; contenting myself with officiously appearing at least ten times a day in the presence of the Marquis, under an idea that my disappointed countenance and extraordinary assiduities would refresh his memory; but as he did not give me the most distant hint on the subject, and time run rapidly away, I seized an opportunity to introduce to him the person I was so deeply interested to serve, in hope that this interview would produce the desired effect.

“SIR,”

"SIR," said I, "this is the Gentleman for whom you kindly promised to procure a place under Government."

AT these words the Marquis, as if he had recollected a dream effaced by time from his memory, said, with well-affected surprise, that I had recalled to his mind the remembrance of a promise which he had forgot, but that he would make ample reparation by speaking on the subject to the Duke of LERMA or Don RODERIGO DE CALDERONA, who at that time held the reins of administration.

THIS new promise gave me new hopes, and I waited patiently another month in daily expectation of success; but at length, perceiving that I was no farther advanced than I was the first day, I became disgusted with the dilatory and deceitful character of the Marquis, and resolved to attach myself to some other master, upon whose promise I might more confidently rely.

I ACCORDINGLY communicated my intention to the old place broker, who, for two more doubloons, procured me a situation with the Count de ORGAS, a Noble-

man who, he assured me, was reputed to be the slave of sincerity, and extremely fond of making every one happy; "but," added he, "it is my duty at the same time to inform you, that he is a character of rather a singular kind. His disposition is so quick, blunt, and hasty, that those who solicit his interest are, in general, not very pleasantly received: he destroys at the first interview every hope of obtaining the desired object; but he ultimately endeavours to perform the services required. The manner in which he confers favours is extremely ungracious."

"WHAT does it matter?" interrupted I: "he does confer them; and is, on that account, a much more valuable character than the Marquis of ASTORGA, who promises every thing to every body, but performs nothing to any."

A few days after I had changed my situation I observed indeed that my new master was a very extraordinary character, and directly the reverse of that of the Marquis of ASTORGA. The Marquis never complained of the conduct of his servants; whether

whether they performed their duties ill or well he always appeared satisfied ; but the Count, on the contrary, reproved his whenever they really deserved it, and sometimes addressed them in terms of great severity. When any person humbly implored his protection and solicited his interest with the King, he immediately flew into a violent passion with the suppliant, reviled him in the strongest terms, positively refused him any assistance, and then did all in his power to serve him.

I SHALL never, continued Don MARCOS, forget a scene at which I was present. A woman, dressed in mourning, waited on the Count. "Sir," said she, on being introduced to him, "as I know your Excellency " is extremely charitable, I have ventured " to hope that my misery may touch your " heart. I am the widow of an Officer in " the Spanish Guards, who has left me " with four children, and little or nothing " to support them. If you would be kind " enough to solicit his Majesty to grant me " a small pension to enable me to ——"

THE Count did not give her time to finish the sentence, but interrupting her with great impetuosity—"Solicit, aye, solicit," said he in a blunt tone; "you think it is only necessary to solicit such pensions of the King to have them granted. Do you think he is thus prodigal of his favours? No, no, truly; there are other objects than such as you are to recompence. If he were to grant pensions to every person in his service, his whole revenues would not be sufficient."

THE afflicted widow attempted to reply.

BUT the Count again interrupted her, saying, with warmth, "Retire, Madam; I will not interfere on this occasion: I will not engage in such unwarrantable solicitations."

DURING this interview he finished dressing, and immediately entering his coach drove to the King's levee; leaving the widow equally dejected and astonished at the unfavorable reception she had met with.

THE

THE widow, however, not easily repulsed, or perhaps informed by some friend of the Count's character, followed him to the Palace, in the hope of being able to procure another interview, and to renew her suit with more success. Waiting patiently for three hours at the palace gate, through which he was obliged to pass on his return home, she approached him just as he was stepping into his coach.

"OH! Sir," she cried, "take pity on my poor children!"

"WOMAN," replied he gruffly, "go home, go home; I have spoken to his Majesty, and he has granted you an annuity of one hundred pistoles."

THE Count de ORCAS, in short, was an amiable brute, and the most generous Nobleman in the kingdom.

AMONG other good qualities, he possessed one which is extremely rare. He never failed, after a certain number of years, to reward the fidelity of his servants; and as he had conceived an affection for me, I should, without doubt, have made my fortune in proper time if I had not unfortunately

nately quarrelled with one of his Gentlemen respecting a young female who waited on the Countess. Each of us loved the beautiful maid without being conscious we were rivals; and I do not know which of us was the most favoured lover; for she conducted herself so dextrously, that we each of us flattered ourselves with being the sole object of her choice *. But however dextrously an
amorous

* This idea has lately been expressed so happily in poetry, that the reader, perhaps, will not be displeased to see it transcribed.

THE BLESSINGS OF SECRECY.

- " HIS mistress BUCKLAND praises to the skies
 " For shape, complexion, hair, and rolling eyes;
 " Whilst the perfections of her mind, he says,
 " Increase his love and merit all his praise.
 " But, oh! to fix the raptures of his soul,
 " Fidelity unshaken crowns the whole.
 " Alas! good man, his prejudice is blind,
 " And all inadequate we soon shall find;
 " To trace her worth, the worth that fills her breast,
 " Exceeds his praises *thirty times* at least;
 " Full *thirty* warm admirers live to prove
 " How vast, how sweet, how faithful, is her love;
 " Each fur the fair with glowing ardour burns,
 " And each fond mortal is a god—by turns.

YOUNG

" Yee

amorous intrigue may for a certain time be carried on, it will be discovered at last. My rival learnt, I cannot tell by what means, that the sound of my guitar was heard every evening, and that I was endeavouring to captivate the affection of Donna INNES. Upon this information he immediately sent me a challenge; and I flew instantly to the appointed spot, where I found my adversary waiting to receive me. We had already drawn our swords, and put ourselves into a posture of defence, when my Gentleman, suddenly dropping all his fury, said,

" Yet with such secrecy her favour's shewn,

" That no admirer is to BUCKLAND known,

" Nor to another: thus though all are blest,

" And, *seign-à-tout*, by the dear Nymph carest,

" Each seems sole object of her fond desires,

" Each thinks her faithful to his tender fires;

" While she still roams, to no man's love a slave,—

" Thus the wide ocean rolls full many a knave

" To various shores, whilst on its azure plain

" Full many a vessel roves in quest of gain;

" The buoyant barks with swiftness skim the seas,

" And every sail invites the favouring breeze;

" Each feels the tide, propitious as it goes,

" And each enjoys the gentle gale that blows."

BUTLER'S "BAGATELLES."

E 5 Listen

“ Listen to me, Sir; a momentary reflection, which I think it necessary to communicate to you before we proceed, has stopped my arm. What is it we are about to do? By destroying our lives we destroy the reputation of Donna INNES. Is this proceeding like Spaniards? The honour of a mistress, however faithless, ought to be preserved. But why faithless? for I have no proof of Donna INNES’ infidelity. Ought I, upon slight suspicion, to indulge a jealous fury?”

“ No,” replied I, “ it is unjust; and if you will admit that you have been too hasty, it will be my wish that all hostility should cease. I have not so great a desire to quarrel with you as to be deaf to the voice of reason on the subject; and it is sufficient for me, that, in thus readily appearing to your challenge, I have convinced you that I am not a man whose courage is to be contemned.”

My rival, assuming at these words the most friendly aspect, exclaimed, while he embraced me, “ Don MARCOS, let us forget what has passed. Permit me to hope
“ for

“for the continuance of your friendship,
“while I afford you mine.”

THUS were two fierce antagonists, mutually eager to cut each other's throats, reconciled; but as the cause of the quarrel still existed, war was every moment in danger of breaking out between them. The Count de ORGAS, however, soon set all matters right. A Valet-de-Chambre, one of those prying creatures who hears and sees every thing that stirs in a house, and who had conceived antipathies against both of us, seized the first favorable opportunity to inform the Count, not only of our quarrel, but of the cause which had given birth to it; and the Count, who was by nature rigid and severe, turned us both instantly out of doors, as common disturbers of his domestic tranquillity.

I RETURNED to the hotel of my good friend MONILLO, whose interest with the Major-Domo of the Duke of PEGNARANDA was sufficient to procure me the situation of Page to that Nobleman. The Duke was between sixty and seventy years of age, and possessed all that tender and benign dispo-

sition which distinguished the character of the Marquis of ASTORGA, without the defect of forgetting his promises. But although he was free from this defect, he was under the dominion of a folly which rendered him ridiculous in the eye of the world. Addicted to gallantry from his youth, the habits of it still accompanied his old age. Fondly devoted to a coquet, whom he made the idol of his soul, he passed whole days in conversing with her, admiring extravagantly every word she uttered, and sometimes extolling whatever was most defective in her person. He resembled BALBINUS in HORACE, who praised even the wart which disfigured the nose of his mistress.

An idolater of this description was, as will be easily conceived, not well rewarded for all the flatteries he bestowed. The Lady disposed of the complaisance of listening to his adulations extremely dear; and, exclusive of the prodigious expence he lavished on her, she was far from being scrupulously faithful to him. A rumour prevailed that he had more than one rival,
and

and the report was not without foundation. But it gained no credit in the mind of my doating master, who, piquing himself upon making love upon the principles of knight-errantry, would have thought it criminal to suspect the virtue of his mistress: an excellent lesson to those lovers who, upon appearances, frequently false, become the prey of a tormenting jealousy.

THE Duke, at the time I was received into his service, doated to excess on his fair favourite. It was not long before I gained his confidence. "Page," said he to me the first day, "your countenance pleases me, and I have made choice of you to execute a secret and confidential service." At the same time he gave me a letter to carry to his nymph, whose name was HORTENSIA, and who lived in the vicinity of the Duke's mansion. I presented my billet to the Lady with a graceful air, and acquitted myself in this honourable employment with as much dexterity as those who are more in practice.

THE Lady, never having seen me before, looked at me for some time with particular attention;

attention; then opened the letter; and I felt, or affected to feel, while she was reading it, an extacy of pleasure. She resembled the tender FLORISBEL perusing a billet from her dear DON BELIANIS. Soft sighs escaped from her lips, and once or twice she seemed to faint away with extacy of delight. So well indeed did she act her part, that if I had not received my cue from MONILLO, I should really have fancied her to be foolishly fond of my master.

HAVING performed this character, she assumed another. "Are you the Duke of PEGNARANDA's Page?" said she. "Let me congratulate you on your situation; you cannot, my young friend, serve a more amiable Nobleman."

"MADAM," replied I, "although I have scarcely held this honourable post for twenty-four hours, I have had more than one occasion to rejoice at my appointment. The Duke has convinced me that I have the felicity to please him; and I trust he will have no reason to change the opinion he entertains in my favour. All my endeavours shall be exerted, Madam, to preserve

“preserve his approbation, and to render myself worthy of your protection.”

“My protection is granted to you from this moment,” replied HORTENSIA; “you appear to deserve it. Go,” added she, “and be assured of my influence with the Duke in your favour. It shall not be my fault if you do not make your fortune in his service.”

ALTHOUGH I conceived that these promises were made to induce me to espouse her interests with the Duke, I feigned to attribute them entirely to her goodness; and offering her repeated thanks, returned home, where the Duke was waiting my arrival.

“WELL Page,” said he, “you have now seen HORTENSIA; what is your opinion of that divine creature? Does she not truly justify all the tenderness I entertain for her?”

“My Lord,” replied I, not ignorant of the sort of tale which would flatter him, “Donna HORTENSIA appears to be all perfection, and highly deserving of your attachment. But, charming as she is, you ought to be less delighted with her beauty

"beauty than with the ardency of her affection. While she read your letter, I observed, notwithstanding all her caution, that her heart overflowed with delight. The tenderest sighs, the warmest transports, and the softest languor, discovered the affection of her soul."

A NARRATION so extravagant must have offended every mind but that of this doating lover, whose credulity was so insatiable, that I was in no danger of disgusting him.

"The discovery you made," cried he, "transports me. You see with what injustice HORTENSIA is accused by those who would impeach the sincerity of her affection."

"Oh! certainly, Sir," replied I, "I can rely on my own eyes; and after what I have seen, there is no doubt of your being tenderly beloved."

"I BELIEVE IT," replied the Duke; "and being as certain of possessing her heart as I am conscious that she possesses mine, I shall continue to enjoy the pleasures of this union."

“this happy intercourse without being disturbed by the babblings of evil fame.”

“THIS,” replied I, “is the sure way to avoid the miseries of love. You act wisely by relying thus implicitly on the fidelity of HORTENSIA.”

“I SHOULD injure her by doubting it,” replied he: “HORTENSIA possesses an elevated soul and the most exalted sentiments. The dreams of sleep even offer nothing but the noblest images to her mind. I visited her, for example, yesterday evening, and found her asleep. Approaching softly towards the couch, without waking her, I stood for some time in silent admiration of her charms. I am ignorant of the subject which occupied her mind; but, in dreaming, she twice pronounced the word *Page*. Accomplished woman! There is not another of the sex who would not have used the vulgar term of *Lacquey*; but the divine HORTENSIA, whose mind is constantly filled with sublime ideas, used the appellation *Page*.”

I COULD

I COULD scarcely refrain from laughing aloud at my employer while he uttered these words, but fortunately I had power to resist it. I even applauded the extravagant idea of this doating lover, and flattered his passions by telling him, that he was, without doubt, the interesting subject of her dream.

"You are right," replied he, with a vain and half-witted smile, "for HORTENSIA told me confidentially what it was."

Two days subsequent to this conversation I was again dispatched to the residence of HORTENSIA with another epistle, which she read with the same demonstrations of joy as upon the former occasion. During this interview, she asked me a thousand questions respecting the place of my birth and the condition of my family. Having satisfied her curiosity on these subjects, she enquired into the cause which induced me to leave my home, and from what motives I had come from MADRID. I told her my only view was to seek the protection of
some

some great man, by attaching myself to his interests."

"I AM extremely happy, then," replied she, "that chance has thrown you into the service of the DUKE OF PEGNARANDA. I may be able to render you many good offices with him. I have indeed already disposed his mind in your favour; and it will not be long before you perceive the good effects of my interposition."

ON receiving these assurances, I expressed my thanks in terms which discovered, on my part, the grateful sensibility of my heart; and the kind discourse she had held with me seemed to reveal something significant on her's: my vanity, at least, made me so imagine; and the next time I was sent to her house, I was made acquainted with the cause of it.

HORTENSIA, on that day, did not think proper to grant me an audience. CELIA, her old female servant, and the depositary of her secrets, received me, saying, "If you have any letter for my mistress, she desires you will deliver it to me. I shall give

“give it to her after she has had a little
 “repose; for she is at present indisposed
 “with a head-ache which torments her
 “incessantly. Oh! fatal Love, how often
 “have I cursed thee!”

“WHAT do you say, CELIA!” exclaimed
 I, with astonishment; “why this imprec-
 “tion? Can my master have given uneasi-
 “ness to your mistress: to this divine idol
 “of his soul! Has he, by any momentary
 “fit of jealousy, troubled ———”

“SHAMEFUL thought,” interrupted
 CELIA; “his Grace is too fond a lover to
 “permit the smallest trait of jealousy to
 “escape him. No, no, that is not the
 “cause of her indisposition, but,” added
 she, with an air of concealment, “I am
 “silent. If, indeed, your beard were a
 “little older I might perhaps say more to
 “you.”

“Oh! Madam CELIA,” interrupted I
 in my turn, “you reproach my youth; but
 “let me tell you, that I am capable of
 “keeping a secret, however important it
 “may be. I have learnt discretion al-
 “though ———”

“ though I am only a Page. Try me, if
“ you have any doubt.”

“ I have a great mind,” replied CELIA,
“ to tell it to you ; and if I should, you
“ will hear something that will surprise you
“ very much. My mistress, since her last
“ conversation with you, has done nothing
“ but dream, and sigh, and groan, and
“ talk of you. Guess what this means.”

“ I will tell you,” replied I, “ what this
“ means : you and your mistress are willing
“ to entertain yourselves at my expence,
“ by inducing me to believe, that she has
“ not disdained to regard me with affection,
“ and that I have, in short, made a tender
“ impression on her heart ; and you are now
“ curious to learn whether I am simpleton
“ enough to believe it. Confess the truth,
“ CELIA. Do not you contrive this rare
“ scheme as a means of pleasing the Duke,
“ and affording all three of you an occasion
“ to laugh at me ? I have not, it is true,
“ had much experience ; but I clearly per-
“ ceive this is a snare which you have laid
“ to entrap my mind rather than my heart.”

“ I AM

“ I AM glad to find,” replied the old woman, “ that you are not sufficiently presumptuous to think otherwise. Young men in general are not quite so modest, and many in your situation would have entertained so good an opinion of themselves as to have thought differently on such an occasion. But,” added she, “ I may perhaps be mistaken ; it may not be from modesty that you are thus incredulous of her love. Come, be candid and sincere. You think there are no allurements in the conquest you have made.”

“ OH, pardon me !” exclaimed I ; “ of all the women I ever saw, she is the woman to whom I could be most fondly attached.”

“ ARE you really serious, young man ?” cried CELIA, with emotion ; “ speak sincerely. Does my mistress please you ?”

“ I SHOULD adore her,” replied I with transport, “ and become even a greater fool to her than my master.”

CELIA, on hearing these words, began to dance for joy ; and, gently tapping me on the shoulder, said, “ Ah ! go you young
“ rogue,

“rogue, you are happier than a greater
“man. Go, and return here to-morrow
“precisely at the same hour. Donna HOR-
“TENSIA,” added she, “will then no
“longer be troubled with the head-ache,
“and you shall have with her a decisive
“interview.”

ALTHOUGH this promise appeared clear and satisfactory, yet I did not dare entirely to abandon myself to those flattering hopes which began to arise in my mind. Fearful that it might be some artful contrivance between the mistress and the maid to sport with my feelings, and that the adventure might terminate to the confusion of *the Page*; for I could not conceive, that a Lady, who was thus adored by a Nobleman of high distinction, would condescend to fix her affections upon me. I returned home fatigued by conflicting reflections, and the ensuing day returned to the residence of HORTENSIA, my mind replete with jealousy and my heart with love.

I HAVE no doubt, continued Don MARCOS, that you are curious to know the particulars of the decisive interview
which

which I was promised, and which I actually had, with HORTENSIA. I shall relate them.

THE Lady, when I entered her apartment, lay reclining on a sofa, dressed in a loose robe, elegantly adorned, and looked so charming, that if the matter had not been already settled, I should certainly have fallen in love with her.

"MADAM," said I, as I approached the sofa, "I surrender myself a willing victim
"of your pleasantry; for, by making me
"believe that I am the object of your affection, I must suppose that you and
"CELIA have combined to entertain yourselves at my expence; but I am not a dupe
"to the conceit; for I know myself too
"well to flatter my mind with a hope of
"happiness, so ———"

"LISTEN to me, Don MARCOS," interrupted HORTENSIA seriously. "You have
"deceived yourself: there is no contrivance
"in this business, nor shall any be used by
"me. Speak candidly, therefore, do you
"love me?"

A QUESTION

A question of this kind, put so directly, rather surprised me.

"MADAM," replied I, "what mortal can defend his heart against so many charms? — One benign look from you is sufficient to —"

"ANSWER precisely the question I have asked you," interrupted HORTENSIA with great precipitation; "answer it without subterfuge or equivocation. Do you entertain an affection for me?"

"AN affection for you, Madam," exclaimed I, with transport, "yes, at the hazard of whatever may follow. Vouch for me, O TRUTH! that the heart of mortal never felt a purer flame. To join my fate to yours, will render me the happiest of human beings. Pardon, divine HORTENSIA, the rash declaration which has escaped my lips; and yet how shall I otherwise answer the question you propounded!"

"YOUR answer satisfies me," replied HORTENSIA, "and, to be equally candid, listen while I disclose the sentiments of my mind. The first moment I beheld

“you, I felt the impression you have made
 “on my heart; and since that moment
 “my inclination in your favour has so ra-
 “pidly increased, that I resolved to offer
 “you, with my hand, a fortune, in gold
 “and jewels, of thirty thousand pistoles.
 “Let us retire with this fortune from MA-
 “DRID to any place in the country that you
 “shall make choice of, and there pass the
 “remainder of our lives in a delightful
 “union; a union which will be the more
 “permanent as it will not be repugnant to
 “the divine will.”

I FANCY, Signior GONZALES, continued
 Don MARCOS, that you would have been,
 as I certainly was, dazzled by this splen-
 did proposal. It had, however, two aspects,
 which were not equally pleasing to my view.
 The charms of HORTENSIA and the magni-
 tude of her fortune afforded a delightful
 prospect to an indigent page; but the idea
 which accompanied it, that I should be
 obliged to marry a woman of doubtful re-
 putation presented a pill extremely bitter
 to the palate of a Gentleman. What opinion,
 said I to myself, will the world entertain of
 me?

me? My father and my grandfather, preferring honour to wealth, chose wives of the chastest characters; but I, degenerating from their delicacy, am about to dishonour their names by a disgraceful connection. The pride of family whispered thus sternly in my ear; and I listened to its dictates for several moments; but, that being all I was enabled to do for the honour of my ancestors, I accepted HORTENSIA'S proposal with every imaginable demonstration of gratitude and love.

"CHARMING HORTENSIA," exclaimed I, throwing myself at her feet, "may I then really hope that you will condescend to join your destiny to mine? No happiness can equal that which you confer on me." I

WHILE I spoke these words I kissed with soft transport her fair hands, and perceived by her looks that, in granting me this favour, she partook of the pleasure she bestowed. A conversation of the tenderest kind ensued, in which we endeavoured to make choice of the place to which we should retire. I proposed the ASTURIAS.

2000000000000000

"COME, my HORTENSIA," said I to her, "let us, if it please you, reside with my father at his chateau, near OVIEDO, between REGNAFLOR and MANSERRET; the situation is delightful, and nothing shall be wanting, either on the part of Don VINCENT or myself, to make you happy."

"EVERY place," replied HORTENSIA, "where you are, will always be the most delightful to me. Let us not delay our felicity. Write immediately to your father and solicit his consent to our union; for his consent must precede the execution of our design."

"I CANNOT avoid trembling for your situation at this period," said I, interrupting Don MARCOS. "Don VINCENT, I apprehend, refused his consent to this marriage; for *Hidalgos* are extremely nice upon the subject of family alliances, and scrutinize closely into every circumstance."

THE observation, replied Don MARCOS, is, in general, very true; but my father is as avaricious as he is poor, and upon these circumstances

circumstances I relied for his consent, which, as the connection appeared so advantageous both to himself and to me, he granted without hesitation. Besides, examples were not wanting of many noblemen who, to re-adorn a castle tottering to its fall, had united themselves, without much compunction, to persons of an inferior degree; riches having at all times proved the best props of indigent nobility. Blinded in short by the brilliancy of the thirty thousand pistoles, he listened to self-interest alone, and instantly exhorted me not to let slip so fine an opportunity of rendering myself independent. Preparations, therefore, were immediately made to consummate a hymeneal equally desired by all parties, and we were shortly afterwards privately married.

"BUT what said the Duke de PEGNARANDA to all this?" cried I; "I long to hear it."

"You shall be informed directly," replied GIRAFA, and it certainly forms the most curious trait of this transaction. Infatuated with the idea that HORTENSIA

loved him to distraction, although he was only her lover *ad honores*; the old dotard lived tranquil and contentedly, for some time, under this agreeable delusion; a delusion which both HORTENSIA and I endeavoured to support, until we were prepared to leave MADRID; when, in order to preserve the interests of a nobleman of his importance, my wife, on the eve of our departure, wrote to him in the following terms :

"MY LORD DUKE,
 "We must now part for ever. A dream,
 "which I regard as a secret warning from
 "Heaven, has induced me to retire from
 "the world. I intend to bury myself in a
 "retreat sacred to penitence, and must bid
 "you an eternal adieu.

"HORTENSIA."

This letter I delivered, in my character of Page, into the Duke's hands.

"Is it possible," said he, on reading it, "that a dream can make so lively an impression?"

"Yes, Sir, upon a female mind," replied I; "many women are weak enough to put
 "great

“great faith in dreams. You recollect
 “that, very lately, an actress of the King’s
 “Theatre has, upon the faith of a dream,
 “retired from the stage into a convent,
 “where she passes her days in pious edifi-
 “cation.”

THE Duke appeared to feel the loss of his idol with the deepest mortification, but the virtuous man believing it to have been ordained by Heaven left her quietly to follow her own inclinations.

By these means HORTENSIA disengaged herself from her old gallant.

On my part, I adopted the following stratagem to procure my discharge without giving the Duke any personal displeasure. I intentionally affronted the Major-Domo, who thereupon immediately turned me away.

On a delightful morning, just before the break of day, HORTENSIA and I left MADRID, and directing our course towards the ASTURIAS; she and her female attendant in a carriage, and, I following on horseback attended by four or five valets to conduct the mules which carried our baggage, we happily

passed through either OLD CASTILE, or the Province of LEON; and arrived, with all our riches, safely at my father's house.

THE appearance of so many mules laden with packages immediately attracted the old man's attention; and, considering them as so much treasure, afforded him the highest pleasure. He received his daughter-in-law, whom I immediately presented to him, in the most gracious manner imaginable, and being extremely pleased with her personal demeanor, and particularly with her modest manners, which, as he expected to see a person of a lively ardent disposition, he could not very well reconcile to his pre-conceptions of her character, he complimented me in her hearing:

"My son," said he, "I applaud your choice, and I now candidly tell you, that you will no longer exclusively enjoy my affection, for this lady will, I am certain, possess one half of it."

AMIALE, however, as HORTENSIA appeared in person and manners to the eyes of

of Don VINCENT, her fortune, which I immediately shewed to him, gave him superior pleasure.

"THOSE bags," said I, "contain twenty thousand pistoles."

"How, twenty thousand!" exclaimed my father, with precipitation; "Why, did you not inform me, that her fortune would amount, in gold and jewels, to thirty thousand pistoles."

"TRUE," replied I; "I am in possession of a fortune to that amount; for I have ten thousand pistoles in the hands of ABEL ZACHARIA, the great Banker of MADRID."

My father seemed thunderstruck at these words. "Oh! misery, misery," exclaimed he, "what have you done! You have lent your money to ~~him~~."

"Why," replied I, hastily, "his credit is unquestioned; ZACHARIA is a good man, he can never fail."

"Never fail!" exclaimed Don VINCENT, ravingly, "How indiscreet a confidence! I would not to ~~have~~."

5

"I assert even more," interrupted I, again, "that ZACHARIAH is sure; I lent him the money, not only at a great rate of interest; but I have taken his notes for it."

"At great interest, say you," replied DON VINCENT, "why, that alone makes me suspect him. Call in this money immediately. I doubt even whether he may not, at this very moment, be a bankrupt."

VAINCOY did I endeavour to dispel the fears of my father; for nothing would satisfy him but a promise that I would return to MADRID and withdraw my pistoles from the hands of ZACHARIAH. I was also obliged, in order to quiet the perturbed spirit of the good man, to hasten my departure, whatever reluctance I might have to absent myself from a wife who became more dear to me every day. HORTENSIA, on her part, though extremely vexed at the thoughts of parting, readily consented to the journey, the better to please my father, who felt himself extremely flattered by this mark of her attention. In fifteen days, therefore, after

after my arrival at the ASTURIAS, I remounted my horse, and, accompanied by a single servant, as well mounted as myself, departed for MADRID, making long stages, less indeed to satisfy Don VINCENT, than to return as soon as it was possible to the arms of HORTENSIA.

THE instant I arrived at MADRID I went to the house of ABEL ZACHARIA, who immediately asked what he could do to serve me. I replied, that I was come on purpose to beg the favour of him to pay me the money I had lent him. A deadly paleness seized the face of ZACHARIA as I pronounced these words. "How, Sir!" said he, "withdraw your money so soon. "Do you doubt my credit? Does any rumour prevail in MADRID, injurious to the "house of ABEL ZACHARIA?"

"No, Don ABEL," I replied, "you
"always take too much care of your repu-
"tation to be in any danger of losing it;
"but I have purchased a large estate in
"the ASTURIAS, and shall want all my money
"to pay for it."

"Oh! that is another matter," replied ZACHARIA, "I only wished for an opportunity to oblige you; and, as a proof of it, I will, in the course of the current month, remit you the ten thousand pistodes, although we agreed, as you will recollect, that when you wanted it you was to give me three months notice before you drew it out of my hands."

I THANKED ABEL for his kind accommodation; and, to give the spirit of my father repose, immediately informed him of my success; but by an answer which he instantly returned, he convinced me how impossible it is to pacify a discontented, avaricious, and jealous mind.

DON MARCOS here finished the history of his adventures.

"You only wait, then," said I, "for the re-payment of your money to return home. The moment you receive it, farewell MADRID and its delights!"

"YES, GONZALES," replied he, "tomorrow I shall set off on my return to my lovely

"lovely HORTENSIA, to whom I owe the
 "happiness of my life. You will excuse,
 "I trust, the impatience I discover to see
 "her."

"Your impatience," said I, "appears to
 "me so natural, that I cannot but applaud
 "it, whatever pain I shall feel in your de-
 "parture."

WE saw each other five or six times after-
 wards, but at length the day of reimburse-
 ment arrived. We embraced with tears in
 our eyes. "Adieu VANILLO," said GIRAPA,
 "perhaps we shall hereafter meet again;
 "chance may again bring us together: but
 "if we are doomed to eternal separation,
 "let us at least preserve a tender recollec-
 "tion of our friendship."

Thus ends the generality of coffee house
 connections: the parties, though they meet
 with pleasure, separate with regret, and for-
 get each other without difficulty.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-SEVENTH.

The Pleasures which VANILLO generally pursued during his Residence at MADRID.

THE regret I felt at losing the company of Don MAZCO was of no longer duration than that which I felt on the departure of Don RAMIREZ. Pleasure being my only pursuit, I soon formed new acquaintances. I sometimes visited the Royal Levee, and at others the most fashionable coffee-houses of the metropolis, where I was generally extremely well amused. Groups of new faces were continually presenting themselves to my view, from which I could always select some who furnished subjects of pleasantry and mirth. The Poets, who daily frequented these receptacles, stunned the ears of the company by their disputes and recitations; they even frequently quarrelled and fought with each other;

other; thereby affording, at their own expence, great entertainment to the company.

BUT this afforded them no concern; they seemed indeed to take a delight in rendering themselves ridiculous. What diverted me more than any thing else in these retreats was to hear a great concourse of people all talking at the same time; some disclosing political secrets, others detailing adventures of gallantry, others relating comic stories; forming altogether a confusion of sounds that delighted me. Sometimes, however, tired with this agreeable noise, I quitted the coffee-house with the head ache, and strolled upon THE PRADO to dissipate it. Occasionally I indulged my curiosity at the audience-chamber of the Count de OLIVAREZ, and, mixing in the motly groupe, observed with attention all that passed. Scenes of the most interesting kind were frequently exhibited to my view. For example: the very first time I attended I beheld a scene which drew from me a flood of tears. The reader, perhaps, will not be displeased to learn the

the circumstances of it, and they are as follow :

A VENERABLE looking old man, with a long white beard, and his clothes torn almost to rags, appeared in the ring before the Minister, and presented to him a petition which he held in his hand.

“ WHAT is this about, good man ? ” enquired the Minister.

“ MY Lord,” replied the bending figure, “ all the prisons of SPAIN have been opened to commemorate his Majesty’s accession to the Throne, and I have been released from mine after a confinement therein for six-and-thirty years.”

A CONFUSED murmur ran through the room on his pronouncing these words, and the Minister himself, struck with astonishment, enquired of him the cause of so long a captivity.

“ ALAS ! ” replied the old man, “ I am quite ignorant of its cause. All I know is, that six-and-thirty years ago I was made a prisoner by an order from the King, as I was then informed by those who took me ; and, what will perhaps

“ surprise

"surprize your Excellency, I have not,
 "during that long period, either under-
 "gone any examination, or been suffered to
 "speak to any human being, except the
 "gaolers who supplied me with my food ;
 "and they informed me that they were for-
 "bidden to answer any question I might ask.
 "To complete my miseries," continued he,
 "I have been endeavouring, ever since my
 "discharge from this earthly purgatory, to
 "find my family ; but, alas ! my family
 "are not now to be found. I had a father,
 "a mother, a wife, and two children ; but
 "they are all either dead or lost. I
 "have no money ; and unless you take
 "pity on me, I shall be reduced to beg-
 "gary."

The surrounding company, moved by
 compassion, waited in painful silence the
 Minister's reply ; who, in mild accents,
 addressed the poor suppliant in these terms :

"Well, my friend," said he, "what is the
 "prayer of your petition ?"

"My Lord," rejoined the old man, "I
 "humbly supplicate your Excellency to
 "send

"send me back immediately to prison: this is all the favour I can now require."

"I PERCEIVE the meaning of your request," replied the Minister, with a smile, "and your wishes shall be gratified. Go; return to your prison; the keeper shall, by my order, provide you with proper clothing, comfortable linen, a clean room, a daily supply of good food, and permit you to have your liberty whenever you please."

THE room rung with reiterations of applause as the Count uttered these words. But this was not all. His Excellency's humanity was not satisfied by converting the dungeon of this miserable man into a place of comfortable repose; but added to it a suitable pension as a means of making him forget six-and-thirty years of misery and pain.

THE Minister, who, being as yet in the infancy of his administration, endeavoured by generous acts to obtain the good opinion of the public, felt the highest pleasure at the popularity he had acquired by his conduct upon this occasion; but the sequel of his

his life did not correspond with the beginning of it.

As to the old prisoner, it is well known that, from the habits of confinement, he made so little use of the liberty he possessed, as seldom to stir out of the prison-gates.

THE coffee-house at which I had become acquainted with GIRAFA was that which I generally frequented; for, besides meeting with very agreeable company and conversation, I was sure to hear of or see some entertaining adventure. One now occurs to my recollection.

WHILE I was sitting at the coffee-house, two Officers in the army entered the room. The figure of one of them caught my attention. He was a tall man, who, by his fierce and martial air, drew on himself the notice of the whole room.

"Who is that Officer?" said I softly to a Gentleman near me.

"It is," replied he, "Don TORRIBIO TRUEGNO, Captain of those Royal Guards called *Monteros*, and is universally considered as brave a man as any in the army: he has, as you see, a warlike air perfectly correspondent

"correspondent to his fame. Look at him
"attentively."

"THE more I look at him," said I,
"the more I admire him. But what is the
"reason of his wearing a scarf round his
"arm?"

"He has lately received a wound," re-
plied the Gentleman with a smile; "the
"history of which is rather singular. I
"would tell it you if he were not in the
"public room?"

"COME, then," said I, "let us retire into
"a private apartment."

I ACCORDINGLY retired with the Gentle-
man into a small parlour on the right-
hand, where he related to me the following
story:

"DON TERRYITO TREVENO, about eight
"days ago, was hunting upon the plain
"GUADALAJARA, accompanied by two
"Subalterns belonging to his corps, all of
"them well mounted. Riding across those
"fields which lie between MONTAÑAN and
"BUENDIA, a little man, with grey hairs,
"and mounted on a scrubby poney, ad-
"dressed himself to TREVENO with great
"civility,

“civility, saying, “I conjecture, Seignior,
 “that you are not conscious of being now
 “upon the lands of a Gentleman, who,
 “always keeping himself within the boun-
 “daries of his own domain, and never
 “hunting upon the lands of others, is not
 “inclined to permit others to hunt upon
 “his.”

The Captain, naturally hasty and pas-
 sionate, eyeing the little man from head
 to foot, replied—

“Hidalgo, do you know to whom you
 “are speaking?”

“Yes, Sir,” replied the little Gentleman,
 “I know you are a Commander of the
 “Monteras Guard, and I politely request
 “that you will no longer drive over
 “my ———”

“How!” interrupted TORRIBIO: “you
 “intend to threaten me, I fancy, by mak-
 “ing this request so peremptorily; and if,
 “I suppose, I do not chuse to change my
 “course, you will desire me to meet you
 “sword in hand.”

“I should be extremely sorry to be re-
 “duced to that necessity,” replied the Gen-
 tleman.

tleman; "but if it be necessary I am so resolved."

THE Captain, at these words, laughing in the face of his antagonist, replied, with an air of raillery, "By Heaven, my little friend, I should be curious to see how you handle a sword: will you satisfy my curiosity?"

"WITH all my heart," replied the old Gentleman: "since you request it with so good a grace, I have not the least objection to afford you the satisfaction."

IN pronouncing these words he dismounted, tied his tit to a dwarf tree, drew his sword, and presented himself boldly before his enemy; who, conceiving he should gain an easy victory, placed himself carelessly on the defensive, as if he were ashamed to contend against so feeble an adversary.

MATTERS however did not turn out much in favour of TORRIBIO. The little Gentleman, who was a fine fencer, made a dexterous lunge, and entered the sword arm of his adversary in such a way, that the Chief of the *Monteros*, finding, from his wound, it was impossible for him to continue the combat, galloped away full

full speed, boiling with rage and vexation, towards MADRID; his two Subalterns following, and laughing in their sleeves at this tragi-comic adventure.

HAVING gone about two hundred yards from the field of battle, he met an *Hidalgo* mounted on a mule.

"SEIGNIOR," said he, stopping his horse, "pray inform me the name of the 'little grey-headed Gentleman who resides 'near MONDEJAR?'"

"OH! I know who you mean," replied the *Hidalgo*, "it is DON CESAR DE PERALTA, an Officer who has served many years with great honour in the army, and who now reposes at his villa under the shade of his laurels."

TORRIBIO, upon this information, seriously debated the matter in his own mind, and, finding that he had been the aggressor, generously resolved to seek the friendship of DON CESAR, instead of again provoking his enmity by requiring farther satisfaction. He accordingly directed his two Subalterns to return, and in his name
invite

invite Don PERALTA to dine with him on the ensuing day at MADRID.

THE soldiers discharged their commission, and on their return informed TORRIBIO that Don CESAR would certainly wait on him.

THE Captain related the adventure to three General Officers of his acquaintance, and invited them to the repast. They were scarce arrived at TORRIBIO's house when they discovered Don CESAR DE PERALTA at the door, mounted on his poney. The Captain hastened towards him, with his arm in the scarf, and would willingly have held the stirrup to assist him to alight. When he entered the room, he presented him to the General Officers, saying, "Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance Don CESAR DE PERALTA, my conqueror. He is a Gentleman who possesses a peculiar talent of punishing those who dare to hunt on his domain without his permission."

"SIR," replied the little Gentleman, "you have now my permission to hunt there whenever you please."

"I RE-

"I RETURN you thanks for your politeness," replied the Captain; "but I have another favour to beg of you, which will be more agreeable: it is your friendship. Grant it to me, and accept of mine."

DON CESAR replied to this compliment with high and finished address; and these two violent enemies are now become the most cordial friends.

RETURNING down to my hotel one evening, after having walked a long time in the delightful meadows of St. James, I heard, as I passed through the gate which leads to Toledo, a voice from a woman calling the name of Antonio. I stopped to receive the person who had called to me. I was not a little surprised to discover that it was the object of my

CHAP. VOL. 1
The following day, I was again surprised to find myself called by the same name. I went to the door, and found a woman who had been my friend. She appeared equally surprised, and feeling that it was a very curious coincidence, she desired me to walk into her house. I went in, and found the particulars of my former friendship. I very willingly con-

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-EIGHTH.

By what Accident and in what Situation VANILLO found BERNARDINA. The Conversation they had with each other; and the Consequences it produced.

RETURNING quietly to my hotel one evening, after having walked a long time in the delightful meadows of St. JEROM, I heard, as I passed through the street which leads to TOLEDO, a voice from a window distinctly pronounce my name. Stopping short to observe the person who had called to me, I was not a little surprized to discover that it was the object of my early passion, the dissembling BERNARDINA. She appeared equally astonished at seeing me; and, expressing a wish to converse with me, desired me to walk into her house.

BEING curious to learn the particulars of her present situation, I very willingly complied

plied with her request. The door was opened to me by an old woman very much resembling LA PEPITA, and apparently in a similar employ. She introduced me into a room very neatly furnished, where I was received by BERNARDINA with transports of joy, and as many demonstrations of friendship as if she had never been unfaithful.

"OH ! my VANILLO !" cried she, "happy fortune has again united us, after a separation of seven years. I cannot express the felicity I feel on seeing you again. But tell me, my friend, what are you doing at MADRID ? Have you any lucrative appointment in the metropolis ? Are you, in short, in a happy and contented situation ?"

I DID not think it quite prudent to make a candid declaration of my wealth to such an artful hussy, lest I should have occasion to repent it. On the contrary I pretended that my affairs were in so low and ruinous a condition, that I found it very difficult to live.

“Is this possible?” said she. “My poor
“VANILLO! what a pity it is that you do
“not possess an ample fortune: you are
“by nature generous. I have not forgot
“the facility with which you lavished your
“money at SALAMANCA.”

“I REMEMBER it also,” replied I with a
sarcastic smile; “nor have I forgot the
“little tricks which you played me upon
“those occasions.”

“No retrospection, VANILLO,” said she
very seriously; “draw the veil of oblivion
“over my former conduct; I have re-
“formed my manners, and have now only
“one lover. The Count de MEDELLIN
“adores me; and, contented to please him
“alone, I reward his attachment with in-
“violable fidelity. But, between our-
“selves,” continued she, “he merits my
“love. His person is elegantly fine, his
“conversation sensible, his manners agree-
“able; and, instead of imitating those who
“keep their mistresses invisible to the
“world, he permits me to enjoy entire
“liberty. His friends, who consist of
“Counts, Marquisses, and Dukes, visit me
“freely

“freely without suspicion; and, under his
“patronage and approbation, I have esta-
“blished in this house a little *coterie*,
“where the young Lords assemble three
“or four evenings in a week to game and
“sup.”

“PRAY be more explicit upon this sub-
“ject,” interrupted I with precipitation.
“If you regale these noble visitors at your
“own expence, your purse must be richly
“stored; for these kinds of entertainments
“are not so frugal as the meals of an an-
“choret.”

“No, certainly they are not,” replied
BERNARDINA; “nor do I pay any of the
“expence; that falls upon my noble
“visitors; and these are the measures I
“pursue to effect this purpose. If, for in-
“stance, there is a *Duke* and a *Marquis* in
“company, I draw them secretly aside one
“after the other, and whisper—“*My Lord*
“*Duke—My dear Marquis—do you sup here*
“*to-night.*” These Noblemen, who perfectly
“understand the meaning of the question,
“answer “Yes;” and respectively accom-
“pany the monosyllable with a donation of
“three or four doubloons. This ceremony

"I perform alternately with every visitor in the room, and though all contribute, each is flattered by the idea of having paid the whole expence."

"I MUST confess," cried I, bursting into a violent fit of laughter, "that this is a new and ingenious artifice to raise supplies. I suspect it was your kind aunt who suggested these ways and means."

"You are right," replied BERNARDINA: "this is the method I follow, and it has produced me considerable profit. But *à propos* of my aunt," added she, "you have not once enquired about her."

"WELL!" replied I, with as much anxiety as if I had really felt great interest in her welfare, "tell me then what is become of your dear aunt; inform me of her present situation?"

"SHE has resided these three years at TOLEDO with the Governor of CASTILE," replied BERNARDINA; "but the connection is at an end, and she is now about to return to MADRID."

"I CONGRATULATE you," replied I; "for with her assistance your supper revenues

"nues will greatly increase ; as it is impossible not to suppose that the charms of Signiora DALFA are still captivating."

"SHE is still amiable," replied the niece, "although I may tell you in confidence, that her beauty is rather faded. Her last letters informed me, that she discovers every morning at her toilette some decay ; that the lively lustre of her early youth disappears ; and that her skin is becoming brown and pimpled."

"THESE evils are not without remedy," said I ; "there are secrets in chemistry by which the complexion may be preserved. I am acquainted with an apothecary who is the first operator in the world for metamorphosing the black and wrinkled face of age into the smooth and blooming countenance of early youth."

"You are jocular," observed BERNARDINA.

"Not at all," replied I ; "I never spoke more seriously in all my life."

"OH ! my dear VANILLO !" exclaimed BERNARDINA with rapture, "if this be really

"really true, tell me directly the name
"and abode of this great man."

"You know him already," replied I;
"turn your eyes and you will find him now
"sitting by your side."

"WHAT do I hear!" exclaimed she
"with extreme surprize. "How! What!
"is it you who possess this important se-
"cret? I cannot believe you: but if you
"do, you may soon acquire a greater for-
"tune than any Indian Governor ever
"possessed."

To obtain some credit with BERNARDINA,
I was obliged to recount to her my adven-
tures in ITALY, and to detail why and where-
fore I became an Apothecary. I amplified
on the surprising properties of the lotion
and ointment, which the great chemist
POTOSCHI, my master, had invented, and
taught me to compound. BERNARDINA
listened to my discourse with interested atten-
tion; but she admired particularly what re-
lated to the Baroness de CONCA, and Donna
BLANCH DE SORBA, her mother; and could
not comprehend how those Ladies, such as I
described them, with pimpled skins and dark
complexions, could appear fairer than the
day

day by using the *revivors* of the great Potoschi.

"GONZALES, my dear friend," said she, "I consider you as an Angel sent from Heaven. I implore your succour for my distressed aunt; her niece also will soon want your assistance. Let me conjure you, by our former friendship, to teach me this invaluable secret."

"MY lovely BERNARDINA," said I, "you shall be satisfied. I will purchase, early in the morning, the various ingredients for these compositions, and we will make a trial of their effects the moment your aunt arrives."

"I will write to her immediately," cried BERNARDINA, "to inform her of the particulars of our conversation; and I have no doubt but my letter will hasten her departure for MADRID."

AFTER this conversation I took my leave of BERNARDINA; and, assuring her that she should see me again in three days, I returned to my hotel.

THE ensuing morning I provided the ingredients necessary to make the com-

pounds, and by working incessantly for two whole days in my own room, which I converted into an elaboratory, produced, on the third, a sufficient quantity both of the ointment and the lotion, which I carried in the evening to the house of BERNARDINA, who could not help smiling when she saw me.

"My aunt is in MADRID!" exclaimed she. "An hour after the receipt of my letter, she set off with the muleteers, and is just arrived; but, being fatigued with her journey, I have persuaded her to go to bed. Let us leave her to her rest for a short time. I told you," continued she with a laugh, "that my letter would hasten her departure. The interests of beauty are, I confess, very dear to the sex; and I do not think there is a woman existing who would not travel five hundred miles to improve her charms."

ENTERTAINING ourselves for some time upon this subject with great pleasantry, I at length asked BERNARDINA if her aunt's beauty was really impaired.

"You

"You must judge of that for yourself," said she; "but in my opinion her charms appear considerably decreased; and, between ourselves, I fancy this was the real reason that induced the Governor of CASTILE to break the connection. Happily for her, Heaven has sent a restorer of charms injured by the ravages of time; she will, under your hands, regenerate; you will render her more amiable than ever."

"SHE may expect as much," replied I; "for, considering my success with the Baroness and her mother, I need not despair of beautifying any face. They were *in puris naturalibus* two ugly monsters, and I converted them into beautiful Angels."

"AH! VANILLO," said BERNARDINA, transported by the pleasure my conversation afforded her, "you are a wonderful man. How happy am I in thus seeing you again. When you have restored my aunt to all the charms she has lost, you shall teach me the art of preserving the appearance of eternal youth."

"Ah! dissembler," cried I; "it will be long before you require assistance."

"I MAY do without assistance some few years, perhaps," replied BERNARDINA; "but time flies with so swift a wing, that one cannot too cautiously prevent the ravages of his scythe."

WHILE I was enjoying the pleasures of a lively conversation in this way with BERNARDINA, her aunt, having taken her nap, awoke. No sooner did she hear that I was in the house, than she instantly arose, and, hastily slipping on a robe-de-chambre, descended into the room. The moment she beheld me she approached me with an eager air, and honouring me with an embrace—

"SIGNIOR VANILLO," said she, "I participate with my niece the pleasure of seeing you again. But tell me sincerely, can I give credit to the astonishing power which her letter informs me you possess."

"SHE has told you nothing but the truth, and to-morrow all your doubts will vanish."

"WHATEVER

"WHATEVER confidence I may place
 "in you," replied she, "I fear you will
 "never be able to restore me to the state
 "in which you saw me at SALAMANCA:
 "to perform that, it is necessary you should
 "possess supernatural power. Examine me
 "attentively," continued she; "am I not
 "frightful?"

"THAT you can never be," replied I;
 "Nature has lavished on you such a pro-
 "fusion of charms, that whole ages cannot
 "rob you of them all: your beauty, it is
 "true, is not so striking as it was when you
 "carried away every heart in the Univer-
 "sity. However, Madam," continued I,
 "it is a happy circumstance for you that
 "I am empowered, by a certain chemical
 "preparation, to recal the youthful bloom
 "and graceful beauty which shone upon
 "your countenance at that early period."

I ACCORDINGLY drew from my pocket,
 as I pronounced these words, A PHIAL and
 A POT, and presenting them to her—

"THERE, Madam," said I, "is the lo-
 "tion and the ointment of the celebrated
 "POTOSCHI. You have only to wash and
 "rub

“ rub your skin with them for one hour
“ this evening, immediately before you re-
“ tire to rest, and in the morning you will
“ perceive the effect.”

SIGNIORA DALFA received my compositions with mingled hopes and fears; for, notwithstanding all my assurance, a secret distrust lurked in her mind, and damped the idea of those pleasures I had led her to expect. Her impatience, however, to try the effect of my prescription was so great, that she retired before it was dark to her chamber, when, by the assistance of her confidential maid, she washed and rubbed herself for three or four hours, and then, according to my recommendation, went to bed, but found it not an easy matter to procure repose.

SLEEP however at length closed her eyes, and enabled her to taste her happiness in dreams until the return of day; when waking with a start, and yielding to the curiosity which disturbed her pillow, she flew to her toilette, and discovered in it a figure so transformed from what it was, that she scarcely recollected her own face.

Calling

Calling her servant, "BEATRICE," said she, "come here directly; come and contemplate the beauties of youth."

BEATRICE, to make more haste, ran half undressed to her mistress, and, looking at her steadfastly, exclaimed, "Good Heavens! what is it I behold? You have the complexion of a girl of fifteen! Signior GONZALES must certainly be something more than a forcerer to have made you thus young again. I will carry the news directly to Madam BERNARDINA."

"YES, BEATRICE," exclaimed Signiora DALFA; "go and announce this prodigy to her; she ought not to be less delighted with it than myself."

THE maid ran and awakened BERNARDINA. "Come," said she with glee, "come and see my mistress, your aunt. By St. APOLLO you will not know her; she is now as brilliant as a star."

BERNARDINA immediately arose, and went into the chamber of her aunt; who, still at her toilette, added to the effects of my composition all the powers which the arts of accomplished coquetry could bestow.

"My

"My dear aunt!" exclaimed she, drawing back with surprize, "is it you that I behold? What charms! This transformation will excite my jealousy; I shall now no longer share with you the public admiration."

"Do not joke, my dear niece," replied Signiora DALFA seriously; "but tell me sincerely how I look."

"RAVISHINGLY," replied BERNARDINA; "you have regained all the graces of your early youth. VANILLO has taken from you fifteen good years at least."

Just at this period of their conversation I entered the room; for I was too impatient to learn the success of my composition, any longer to delay enquiry.

"INCOMPARABLE chemist!" exclaimed the aunt the moment she saw me, "I have been waiting to pay those acknowledgments to you that are so much your due. I cannot sufficiently testify the gratitude of my heart." At the same time, to shew me how sensibly she felt the services I had rendered her, she embraced me with a warmth and tenderness I had never before

fore experienced ; and her lovely niece followed her example, saying, " My aunt
" thanks you for the favour you have already
" conferred on her, and I thank you by
" anticipation for those you are to perform
" for me ; for you must not forget that
" you have promised to reveal to me this
" important secret."

" I REPEAT my promise," replied I.
" You shall soon be as wise upon this subject
" as I am myself."

" BUT VANILLO," said the delighted
widow, " you seem not to know the value
" of the treasure you possess. Do you re-
" collect that you may gain an immense
" fortune by secretly selling these curious
" compositions. Leave the care of collect-
" ing customers to us ; we will furnish you
" with them in great abundance. Why
" should you bury this useful talent ? Is it
" not more adviseable to render it profit-
" able ?"

" MY aunt is right," interposed BER-
NARDINA. " You must be an enemy to
" your own interest if, having the means
" so easily in your power, you refuse to
" enrich

“enrich yourself. It depends entirely upon
“yourself to become, in a short time, a
“man of fortune. The improvement of a
“few fashionable faces will circulate your
“fame; and the moment you are in vogue,
“gold will be showered upon you from all
“quarters. Exclusive of the number of old
“dowagers by whom you will be oppressed,
“superannuated gallants will pester you with
“purfes in their hands, and implore you to
“rid them of their wrinkles. In short, you
“will immediately make an immense fortune without being obliged to any body.”

THESE Syrens charmed my mind by these pleasing prospects to such a degree, that they inflamed my heart with avarice. I felt my bosom glow with an affection for riches. I had hitherto only loved money from a report of its utility; but I now began to love the thing itself, and to forget its use, and I experienced all the delights which misers feel in the possession of their gold. If I had been at this moment in my closet alone, I verily believe I should have kissed my ducats one after the other, from pure admiration of their matter and form.

THE

THE frame of mind which the exhortations of BERNARDINA and her aunt had produced disposed me to follow their advice.

"LADIES," said I, "the conflict is over; it is settled; I have determined to adopt your scheme. I will instantly provide a large quantity of my lotion and pomade, and in the mean time you will discover those rich dowagers who may want them."

"Go, go," said BERNARDINA, "leave the rest to us; we will find them out. The desire which you know all women have to look handsome, ought to convince you that there is no danger of our success."

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE THIRTY-NINTH.

VANILLO sells his Lotion and Ointment ; gains a large Sum of Money ; and becomes miserly in Proportion as he grows rich.

COMMENCING my operations in chemistry by converting my bed-room into a laboratory, and by furnishing it with a number of phials and pots, I employed three days and three nights in distilling, through an alembic, the juices of various plants proper for my purpose, and having prepared *cosmetic* sufficient to produce at least twenty transformations, I repaired to the residence of my coadjutors, to inform them that I only waited for the patients they had promised to procure.

“ You shall not want customers,” said Signiora DALFA ; “ we are already prepared to place two under your hands ;
“ one

“one is a Countess, who has lately lost,
“ what she is most fond of, the public ad-
“ miration; the other is a devotee, the
“ wife of an Alcade, who is anxious to fix
“ the wavering affections of her husband.
“ Go,” continued she, putting a paper with
their respective addresses into my hand; “go
“ and visit these patients; ask to speak with
“ their waiting maids, who have received
“ orders to conduct you privately to their
“ mistresses apartments.”

IMPATIENT to levy on the old Ladies
the projected contributions, I went imme-
diately to the house of the Countess, whose
servant introduced me, saying, “ This,
“ Madam, is the celebrated chemist who
“ has discovered the art of repairing the
“ injuries of time.”

“ ALAS !” said the Countess, with a sigh,
“ I doubt whether all his art will be able
“ to give me a face that will be pleasing to
“ the eye of the world.”

“ O MADAM,” replied I, in the language
of quackery, “ you do injustice to your-
“ self; you have less cause to complain of
“ the effects of time than you imagine; it
“ has

“has only faded your complexion and
“concealed your beauty, and when the
“veil is removed, it will again beam
“forth in pristine lustre. The lotion is
“principally intended to recal departed
“bloom. I can also assure you that it pos-
“sesses another admirable quality; which
“is, that it operates its effect in one night.
“A Lady who retires to rest with the
“wrinkles of age, may rise the next morn-
“ing with a face as smooth as glass.”

“HA! what is it you say?” interrupted
the Countess with precipitation. “If
“you really possess this valuable secret,
“tell me directly how I must use it; in
“boasting its excellence you provoke my
“impatience to try it.”

I ACCORDINGLY gave the Countess the
proper directions, and, presenting her with
a phial and a pot, quitted the room,
telling her that I should return in the morn-
ing, confident of finding her changed from
black to white.

FROM the house of the Countess I pro-
ceeded to that of the Alcade, whose pious
wife

wife was inclined to become my patient. On my arrival I asked for an old waiting maid, whose name was written on my paper. She soon appeared; and when she heard me say that I had something to communicate to her mistress, she replied, with a smile,

“ I GUESS who you are; you are welcome; you are called for here with heart and voice:” and at the same time she conducted me by a private staircase to the apartments of her mistress, who received me very graciously.

THIS Lady, who in her early youth had possessed an extraordinary share of beauty, still possessed sufficient to content any reasonable husband. I therefore addressed myself to her in these terms :

“ I DOUBT, Madam, whether I am right in waiting upon you; for although some of your personal charms are flown, you still retain so many others, that you cannot want my assistance to increase the number of your admirers.”

“ You

"You are very much deceived," replied she, "if you conceive that I wish to increase my beauties in order to increase the number of my admirers: my only wish is to render myself pleasing to my husband. This perhaps will appear very extraordinary to you; but it is the truth. I love my husband, and would not wish to improve my beauty, if it were not to render myself more agreeable to him, and to regain his heart."

"THEN I understand by this, Madam," replied I, "that your husband is devoted to gallantry."

"It is, I confess, his foible," replied the Alcade's wife; "let us unite our efforts to reclaim him. Increase, if it be possible, the virtue of your application. In short, render me so charmingly beautiful that he may never be tempted to swerve from his duty."

I INSTRUCTED the Alcade's wife, while I presented her with a phial and a pot, how my lotion and pomade were to be used, and bid her adieu until the same hour the ensuing morning.

THIS

THIS Lady, I have been since informed, was more impatient even than the Countess to experience the effects of my compounds; and, without waiting until it was night, rubbed herself all over with both the restoratives, and going to bed, gave orders that she might be left undisturbed to her repose.

RISING the ensuing morning with anxious curiosity to learn whether my two patients would receive me with compliments or reproaches, I first visited the Countess, whom I found at her toilette; her maid looking at her with the eye of admiration, and praising her new-blown beauties to the skies.

“APPROACH, learned Doctor,” cried she with joy and satisfaction; “approach and receive your merited applause.”

“I REJOICE, Madam,” replied I, “to find you so contented with my remedies.”

“How! contented!” replied she; “rather say enchanted. Already had I renounced the company of youth, and abandoned all places of public resort; but I may now indulge the pleasing hope of appear-

“ing in the world once more, and of renew-
“ing all the pleasures I have relinquished.”

“You may, Madam,” replied I, “boldly
“resume your station in the world; you
“will no longer be overlooked in the cir-
“cles of the gay, and I am certain that
“every Gentleman of true taste will wel-
“come your return with pleasure.”

“You are a flatterer, Doctor,” replied
the Countess; “but when you speak in
“this stile, you rather resound the praises
“of your own art than of my beauty. But,
“however that may be, the services you
“have rendered cannot be too amply re-
“warded. Here is a purse containing fifty
“doubloons, by which I merely pay for the
“pot and phial; for my gratitude shall
“not end here, if you will take care to
“preserve the beauty you have so success-
“fully restored.”

THIS dialogue, the latter part of which
was most pleasing to me, being concluded,
I retired, as well satisfied with the Countess
as she was with me. Never, indeed, hav-
ing before received so large a bounty, I
began to think that the lovely widow and
her

her charming niece had induced me to adopt no unprofitable employment.

As I seemed to be in the train of touching the cash, I went directly to the house of the Alcade's wife, who afforded me a very gracious reception. This Lady had just risen from her toilette, with joy sparkling in her eyes.

"MADAM," said I, "there is an air of satisfaction in your countenance, from whence I draw the most auspicious conclusions. Appearances must be extremely deceitful indeed if you are not contented with my prescriptions. Your beauty seems improved to the full extent of your wishes."

"I HAVE," replied she, "attained the summit of my wishes. Your compounds have done wonders," added she, laughing with all her force, "I must relate the circumstance to you. My husband used sometimes to visit my chamber, but it was generally with the coldness of indifference, scarcely deigning to look at me, or, if he looked, it was with a disregard which wounded both my tenderness

“dernefs and vanity. This morning he
 “repeated his visit; the change he imme-
 “diately observed in my charms awakened
 “his fleeping affection; and, careffing me
 “with his former fondnefs, he lavifhed the
 “warmeft praifes on my reviving beauty.”

In pronouncing thefe words fhe burft
 into a laugh of extatic pleafure, which I
 enviously wifhed to accompany; but, the
 more perfectly to act the Doctor’s part, I
 carefully preferved my gravity.

HAVING indulged her laugh, fhe refumed
 a ferious countenance. “Incomparable
 “chemift,” faid fhe, “do not ftop here,
 “but employ whatever is moft powerful and
 “efficacious in your art to preferve the
 “charms your art has given me. You have
 “performed a miracle in warming the cold
 “bofom of my husband; but you will per-
 “form a ftill greater, if you can render me
 “fufficiently amiable to fix his defires.”

“MADAM,” replied I, “the atchieve-
 “ment is by no means eafy, but I do not
 “think it impoffible.”

“REALLY!” exclaimed fhe. “Oh! if
 “you can accomplifh this point I fhall re-
 “ward your fervices with liberality.”

THE

THE tone of voice in which she pronounced these words persuaded me I might rely on her promise; and, to give her words still greater energy, she accompanied them with a rich diamond ring, which she put on my finger, saying, "take that as a small proof of my intended gratitude." I retired from the house of the Alcade with equal satisfaction as from that of the Countess, fully convinced that the ring could not be worth less than a hundred pistoles. To be more certain, however, I shewed it to an old jeweller, whose shop was near, and who, after examining it for a long time, asked me, whether it was to be sold? "No," replied I, "the owner only wishes to be informed of its value."

"If the owner," replied the jeweller, "chuses to part with it, I will give him five hundred pistoles."

PERFECTLY satisfied with his appreciation, I thanked the jeweller, and returned gaily home; saying, "Courage, Master Chemist; this is a good morning's work; if you continue to have many more such, you will soon grow rich."

THE moment I returned home I shut myself up in my laboratory, opened my strong box, that is, the portmanteau which contained my wealth, and put into it the Countess's purse, saying, with as affectionate a voice as if I had been speaking to a beloved mistress, "Go, my brilliant friends, thou dear and charming rewards of my chemic labours, go and accompany the ducats of my uncle; for they are your near relations."

SERIOUSLY, if any person had overheard the ridiculous conversation I held with my gold, they would have taken me for a madman. But I was in fact troubled with the Demon of Avarice, and I reckoned that my lotion and pomade would soon acquire me great fame and produce a large fortune, which I computed incessantly according to the inclination of my avaricious imagination, without once reflecting that I was deceiving myself by my calculation.

I WENT in the afternoon to return my thanks to Signiora DALFA and her niece for the two excellent patients they had recommended to me.

"WE

"WE have others ready for you," said
 BERNARDINA. "An old and opulent Mar-
 chioness, whose visage is really become
 frightful from the lapse of time, waits
 the arrival of a young Italian Count,
 who is coming to MADRID on purpose
 to marry her. They have never seen
 each other. The Count is apprized that
 the Marchioness is not handsome; but
 this is no impediment on his part; for
 the pockets of the widow are lined with
 gold. The Lady, however, notwith-
 standing the reliance she places in her
 riches, apprehends that the Count, when
 he sees her, may be inclined to break off
 the match. My aunt and I have recom-
 mended her to you, and our description
 of your profound science has excited her
 curiosity. Here is her address," added
 she, giving me a slip of paper, "and the
 name of the maid to whom you must
 address yourself: go and pay her a visit
 immediately."

I WENT without loss of time to the house
 of the Marchioness; and I was never, in
 the whole course of my life, so astonished

as when, on entering the room, I perceived, reclining on a sofa, a diminutive female, with brown complexion, blear eyes, and full of wrinkles. I could not believe that this was the person for whom an Italian Count was quitting his country to marry and live with at MADRID. But she soon removed all doubt from my mind.

“DOCTOR,” said she, “pray examine me with great attention, and tell me what you think of my beauty. Do not you think the young Cavalier, who is coming so far for my sake, will be well rewarded for his trouble?”

I was quite confounded by this address; for I had never before known a single instance of a woman turning her own person into ridicule.

THE Marchioness, although nearly sixty years of age, was, it is true, much more injured by ugliness than by age; and I could willingly have applauded her pleasantry, but that I was too polite to take such a liberty, and besides it might not have been very agreeable to her inclination.

“MADAM,”

"MADAM," said I, "it is true that, in your present situation, I would not advise you to contend with the three Goddesses for the apple of Love; but, without employing supernatural powers, or even the utmost extent of human art, I think you may be so improved that your husband shall have reason to boast of having an amiable wife."

THE Marchioness, at these words, immediately burst into a roar of laughter, and, still seeming to joke at her own expence, said,

"My good Doctor, I have no doubt of your great abilities; but I can never believe them sufficient to render my person pleasing. Prevent it from being despised, and I shall be perfectly contented."

"MADAM," replied I, with an air of confidence, "I will do much more; I assure you, that to morrow morning, when you look in your glass, you will be, like NARCISSUS, charmed with the view of your own image."

THE Marchioness again burst into a fit of laughter, replying, "You are a bold
I shall see how you succeed in this
boldly

"man, Doctor," to undertake this task;
"and I think I may defy you, with all
"your drugs, your washes, your oint-
"ments, and your lotions, to accomplish
"your promise. I have no objection how-
"ever," continued she, "to try the ex-
"periment; but I consent rather to unde-
"ceive you than from any hope I enter-
"tain of becoming an agreeable woman;
"and, besides, I must annex a condition
"to my consent, that you will not, upon
"your word of honour, tell any person that
"I have been foolish enough to follow
"your directions under the flattering idea
"you can render me handsome in spite of
"nature."

I gave her accordingly a sacred promise to this effect, and, leaving her a phial and pot, with particular direction to rub herself well with their contents, took my leave.

I must confess that upon this occasion I trembled for the success of my prescriptions; notwithstanding all the experience I had had of their uncommon powers. Their operation could not be unbounded; and as the extraordinary case in which they were now applied certainly justified my fears, I
passed

passed an interval of anxious inquietude until I returned the ensuing morning to the house of the Marchioness, whom I had the pleasure to find rejuvenated by at least twenty years, and so finely embellished by dress, that I was in danger, like another PRIGALION, of falling in love with the figure I had made.

"DOCTOR," exclaimed the Marchioness in transports of joy, "I will make reparation to your injured honour. I confess I thought you an Empiric, but you have very agreeably undeceived me, and I now hail you as the most incomparable practitioner the world has ever produced."

"MADAM," replied I, "to speak to you with a candour equal to your own, I can easily forgive the doubts you entertained of the efficacy of my composition; for I confess that I did not myself expect they would produce so happy an effect."

OVERJOYED to find herself in a situation to shine once again in the circles of fashion, the old Lady presented me with a purse containing a hundred doubloons, on

condition that I would regularly furnish her with sufficient quantities of these grand specifics. Promising her an ample supply, I took my leave in order to inclose my doubloons in the portmanteau which contained the pistoles of the Countess and the ducats of my uncle: a ceremony I could not perform without giving my increasing wealth new testimonies of my idolatry.

CHAPTER THE FORTIETH.

In which the Reader will find a strange Reverse of Fortune; and a deplorable Trait of Human Malice.

THE more a dropical person drinks, the drier he grows; and the more a miser amasses, the more covetous he is of riches.

SIGNIORA DALFA and her neice industriously contributed to advance my practice, under an idea that I would perform my promise of teaching them the art of compounding my lotion and my pomade, and I certainly did not intend to disappoint their expectations; but the reverse of fortune which I all at once experienced, and which I shall now recount, put it out of my power.

ONE morning, while I was enjoying in contemplation the prosperity of my affairs,

I was

I was extremely surprized to see a man enter my room with the audacity of an Alguazil. On asking him who he wanted, "You," replied he, *fiercely*, while he exhibited to my view a golden medal which hung upon his breast between his shirt and his skin, and upon which were engraven the tremendous insignia of THE HOLY INQUISITION. "I have the honour to be an Agent to THE HOLY OFFICE, and I am ordered by my superiors to arrest you. Follow me; I will conduct you to your prison."

DISTRACTED by this information, and scarcely knowing what I was about, I endeavoured to seize and grapple with the officer; but he immediately laughed in my face, saying, "Young Gentleman, you are taking dangerous measures; you may, perhaps, be ignorant of the respect which is due to this high tribunal. All persons, of whatever quality or condition, who are arrested by its officers, must submit themselves without resistance; and if any one, which is very rare, either from ignorance or obduracy, shews the slightest

" est

"est disposition to resist, all persons are
"bound to aid in executing the order of
"THE GRAND INQUISITION. Come, there-
"fore, quietly with me, unless you rather
"chuse to be dragged ignominiously along
"by force and violence."

PERCEIVING from this address that all
opposition would be useless, I followed the
Officer, who immediately conducted me to
the prison of THE HOLY TRIBUNAL, where
a Gaoler, surrounded by a band of Guards,
immediately inclosed me in a dungeon,
saying, "The Commissary of this Holy
"Institution will be with you presently.
"Prepare yourself, therefore, to answer
"the questions he shall propound with sin-
"cerity and precision." Having pro-
nounced these words, he retired, leaving
me in a stupefaction of grief and astonish-
ment, from which I was not perfectly re-
covered when the Commissary arrived.

THE Commissary, after asking my name
and my profession, exhorted me, for my
own interest, faithfully to discover all the
wealth I possessed, assuring me, in order
to induce a readier compliance, that if I

was innocent, as he believed I was, all the property would be restored to me with religious fidelity; but, that if I concealed the most trifling part of it from the knowledge of my Judges, all my wealth, real and personal, moveable and immoveable, would be confiscated. "You ought not to doubt," continued this honest Minister of Justice, "the integrity of
"THE HOLY OFFICE; and, if you are not
"guilty, you may rest assured, that all
"your effects will be scrupulously restored
"into your hands."

DUPED by this perfidious assurance, and imagining I was dealing with Saints, I was foolish enough to confess, that I had money in my portmanteau at the Hotel, and discovered not only its species, but its amount.

THE Commissary, eager to make the seizure, immediately repaired to the Hotel, commanded the host, in the name of THE HOLY OFFICE, to open the door of my chamber; and, without farther ceremony, took away not only my portmanteau, but all my clothes, neither of which I have since seen.

WHILE

WHILE this expedition was performing, I lay in my dungeon extended on a bed of straw in all the horrors of imprisonment, and vainly searching my mind to discover a possible cause for my apprehension.

"WHAT crime," said I, "have I committed to deserve this cruel punishment? My conscience does not accuse me of any offence within the ordinary jurisdiction of THE HOLY OFFICE. They must certainly have mistaken me for some other person."

UNABLE to satisfy my suspense, I became by degrees a prey to grief, and feeling all the violence of despair, uttered my complaints so loudly, that I made the walls of the dungeon re-echo with my cries.

AT the noise I occasioned in thus deploring the severity of my fate, one of those guards, who were night and day incessantly on the watch, opened the dungeon door; and, giving me five or six heavy blows with his musquet across my shoulders, "Silence," said he, with a hoarse voice, "silence; and learn, that in the holy prison where you now are, the most profound
" silence

“ silence is observed, which no one is per-
 “ mitted to disturb. Recollect that no
 “ prisoner here is permitted to complain,
 “ for the HOLY INQUISITION, being inca-
 “ pable of committing the least injustice,
 “ is justly offended by those, who even
 “ seem to think it severe. I tell you this
 “ once for all, and therefore, if you
 “ again raise your voice in lamentation
 “ so as to be heard, I shall treat you
 “ with more rigour than you have already
 “ felt. Take warning from what I say.”

ON uttering these words he shut the
 door of the dungeon and left me to my
 own reflections. I made but one. Per-
 ceiving that patience was my only resource,
 I determined to make a virtue of necessity,
 which is no easy task under the pains of
 lingering sufferance, unless Heaven kindly
 interposes its aid, as I fancy it had the
 goodness to do at this conjuncture, for in-
 sensibly absorbing my troubles, and con-
 sidering them as a punishment of my past
 offences, I became tranquil and resigned.

“ Instead of the noise and tumult of the prison,
 I now found myself alone, and the noise of the
 prison was no longer heard.”

“INSTEAD, VANILLO,” reasoned I, with myself, “of suffering yourself to despair, “make a pious use of your afflictions: “conceive that the Almighty is putting “your virtue a second time to trial; and “recollect your miraculous escape from the “prison of AVILA; the Corregidor had “nearly involved you in the same punishment with those guilty persons in whose “company you were found, but Heaven “released you from that peril, and you “ought to hope that he will not abandon “you in this. You will be tried by enlightened Judges, by holy men, who “will immediately order you to be set at “liberty, and will restore your money to “the utmost farthing.”

THESE reflections induced me to wish most ardently for the day of trial. It arrived on the third day of my captivity. The Gaoler conducted me under a strong guard to the Tribunal of THE GRAND INQUISITION, which was in a spacious hall, hung round with green cloth, at the end of which stood a large Crucifix of white marble, finely sculptured, and raised almost

to the ceiling. This Judge, who was a member of the Holy Order of St. DOMINICK, was conspicuously seated in a magnificent chair at the extremity of a long table. He looked round him with all the arrogance of power. His Secretary, a little priest, blacker than a mole, was seated on a stool opposite to him. The moment my eye caught the figure of this formidable MINOS, I ran towards him and threw myself at his feet, hoping by this means to move his feeling and touch his heart.

USELESS humility! He commanded me to rise, and then ordered me to declare the crime for which I had been arrested.

I REPLIED, that I was totally ignorant of the cause, and implored with great humility his very illustrious Reverence to have the goodness to inform me.

"SIR," replied the Inquisitor, calmly, "that is not our practice; you are not now in a Court of secular Jurisdiction: it is incumbent on you to declare the cause of your imprisonment, and I exhort you to discover it immediately, as it is the only means

"means by which you can regain your liberty."

STRUCK with extreme astonishment at these words, I threw myself on my knees a second time before my Judge, and burst into a flood of tears. "O holy Father!" exclaimed I, "How is it possible for me to discover a matter of which I am totally ignorant."

"USELESS prevarication," replied the Monk, unmoved by my distress; "accuse yourself this moment or be silent."

I AGAIN attempted to represent to him the impossibility of complying with his demand; but THE GRAND INQUISITOR, with inflexible sternness, persisted in simply repeating his question; until, piqued by my seeming obstinacy, he ordered me to be silent, and sounded the silver bell which stood before him on the table, as a signal for the holy Myrmidons to approach.

AT this moment an object, which I could not behold without great mortification, immediately entered the hall; it was my portmanteau and other property carried by two men under the protection of a strong

strong guard, and followed by the Commissary who had seized them. At the sight of these beloved spoils, my eyes instinctively shed a flood of tears, and seemed to feel they were taking a last farewell. The Inquisitor, however, having caused the portmanteau to be opened in my presence, and an inventory to be taken of its contents, assured me the whole would be exactly restored to me whenever I was released from the Inquisition. But this wealth, great as it was, would not content these Gentlemen; they searched my person, and when I tell you they took away even my pocket handkerchief, you will easily conjecture they did not leave the ring which had been given me by the Alcade's wife.

This ceremony being performed, and the Grand Inquisitor having again exhorted me not to delay a disclosure of the cause of my imprisonment, retired from the Court with my effects, which were closely guarded by the little black Priest and the Commissary.

THE Gaoler, when the hall was cleared, re-conducted me to my dungeon, where I passed the remainder of the day without
either

either eating or drinking, and the succeeding night without closing my eyes. The declaration which the Grand Inquisitor had required me to make continually recurred to my mind; but the more I thought of it, the more absurd I felt it to be.

At the expiration of three days I was again conducted into the presence of this Judge, who said, "Well, Sir, will you now declare the cause of your imprisonment?"

"How is it possible for me to divine it?" replied I, "Do you not perceive, O Holy Father, that you are requiring me to perform a physical impossibility. I am entirely ignorant who it is that has denounced me to the HOLY OFFICE, and ignorant I must for ever remain, unless you will have the goodness to inform me. If I have accusers, why are they not confronted with me? This is not only the surest but the shortest mode of establishing my guilt or proving my innocence."

The Inquisitor, shaking his head, interrupted me. — "I perceive," said he, "that
"you

"you have no inclination to be immediately
 "released from your confinement. We
 "have seven witnesses against you, all of
 "them good citizens and men of the high-
 "est honour and integrity. You are,
 "without doubt, well apprized of the
 "facts they are capable of adducing against
 "you. Regulate your conduct according-
 "ly. Confess with a good grace that you
 "are guilty of the crime they impute to
 "you. It is only by confession that you
 "can prevent the rigorous sentence which
 "THE HOLY OFFICE pronounces on all
 "prisoners who obstinately and contuma-
 "ciously deny their guilt."

THE Grand Inquisitor, having uttered
 this admonition, left the hall, followed by
 his adjuncts; that is to say, by his Secretary
 and the Commissary; and I was re-conduct-
 ed to my dungeon much more dissatisfied
 with my second audience than I had been
 with my first.

"I AM compelled," said I, "to accule
 "myself. But of what crime? The crime
 "of which my accusers have deposed that I

"am guilty. But what crime is this?
"This confounds me. I cannot upon a
"strict examination find that my conscience
"reproaches me." — The Doubloons of my
dropical patient at MURCIA, and those of
the Licentiate of SALABLANCA, occurred
to my mind, and I was weak enough to
conceive that these matters were the cause of
my arrest. Reflecting, however, that these
were not the sort of offences of which THE
HOLY OFFICE had a right to take cogni-
zance, I comforted myself upon these points,
and only felt an anxiety to learn who
were my accusers, and what was the kind
of offence they laid to my charge. At
length, on a third audience, the secret was
disclosed in the way I shall now relate.

THE Grand Inquisitor asked me, as upon
the two preceding audiences, if I was still
ignorant of the cause of my detention,
and upon my answering that I neither
knew nor could conjecture the cause, the
Secretary opened a register which lay before
him, and in which were written the depo-
sitions taken against me.

“THE Secretary,” said the Inquisitor, “is going to read the heads of the several accusations which are brought against you. Listen to them attentively, and you will perceive that the Holy Inquisition, always slow to punish, takes care to be well informed of the conduct of the guilty before it proceeds against them.”

THE Secretary, the moment the Inquisitor had finished this harangue, began to read the depositions of my accusers, and they all concurred precisely in imputing to me the crime of SORCERY, by assuring, “All whom it might concern, that a certain person, named GONZALES, calling himself a *Chemist*, had, without licence from the Corregidor, secretly and clandestinely sold to certain females, a certain powder and a certain lotion, which, at the instigation and by the assistance and operation of THE DEVIL, changed the course of nature, and converted the decrepitude of age into the activity of youth.”

WHILE

WHILE this accusation was reading, I could not refrain from bursting into a fit of laughter, which, considering the place and the circumstances I was in, was certainly very ill timed.

THE Secretary appeared so offended by this irreverence, that he immediately discontinued reading, and the Inquisitor looking at me obliquely, said, "My friend, *hic ridere nefas.*"

THESE three words brought me to such a serious recollection of my offence that, throwing myself on my knees, I humbly begged pardon for this disrespectful behaviour, assuring him, that it was impossible for me to restrain the laugh which had so indiscreetly escaped me on hearing the accusation.

"WHAT is there in it so ridiculous, then?" replied the Inquisitor, gravely; "you will learn, I fancy, that it is extremely serious."

"PERMIT me, then, Mr. Inquisitor," replied I, with vivacity, "to point out to your reverence the absurdity of it. I possess, it is true, the secret of com-
12 "pounding

“pounding a certain pomade and a certain
“lotion which preserves the complexion
“and improves the skin; but there is no-
“thing unnatural in the operation; and I
“solemnly assure you, that the Devil has
“nothing to do with it.”

“THAT fact is not positively averred,”
replied the Judge, “the accusation al-
“leges, that you can convert an old
“woman into a young girl; that you can
“restore lost beauty; and then it avers that
“you are either a *Sorcerer* or a *Chem-
“ist*.”

“OH! Heavens,” exclaimed I, “what
“accusers have you raised up against me!
“I am inclined to think that they must be
“either *Apothecaries* or *Perfumers*, who,
“possessing no invention of their own, are
“armed by envy against a man who has
“made a useful discovery.”

I OBSERVED that, during this discourse,
the Grand Inquisitor, accustomed as he was
to dissemble his thoughts, seemed sensible
not only of my innocence, but that I had
discovered my accusers; but, for the ho-
nour of THE HOLY OFFICE, he carefully
avoided

avoided the avowal of it, because by such an avowal, he would have been obliged to set me at liberty, as an innocent man falsely accused, and to have restored me my property. Suddenly putting an end, therefore, to all further conversation, "We will scrutinize this matter to the bottom," said the Inquisitor; "it is a nice question. If there be really no magic in your composition, it is but just that you should be immediately enlarged."

Such was the result of my third examination, from whence I retired once more to my dungeon, with as much gaiety as if this honest Inquisitor had absolved me from all the charges of my accusers.

My joy, however, was of short duration; for, eight days afterwards, the Judge having caused me to be again brought into his presence, said, "I have bad news to announce to you; your cause takes an unfavourable turn. Your accusers have adduced new charges against you, and maintain, that you deserve to be burned as an *Enchanter*. They alledge that you
1 3 metamorphose,

“metamorphose; and they cite, among other
“females upon whom you have exercised
“your art, a certain Marchioness, who,
“only fifteen days ago, appeared in all
“the decrepitude of age, but who now
“shines with the bloom of youth. This,
“as you will readily conceive, does not
“contribute to your discharge. Chemistry
“is incapable of producing such extraor-
“dinary effects; and the inference that
“THE DEVIL has some concern in these
“transactions seems well founded. There
“are even two witnesses who swear that
“they have heard you conjure up evil
“spirits to assist you in fabricating your
“compositions.”

“Ah, the villains!” exclaimed I, on
hearing these last words; “who is it that
“can be wicked enough to invent such
“falsehoods? What can I have done to those
“two miserable deponents that they should
“thus dare to calumniate me? May
“the forked lightning of Heaven flash
“upon——”

“No imprecations,” interrupted the In-
quisitor, “no invectives. Retire to your
“prison,

"prison, and tranquillize your agitated
 "soul until it is clearly decided whether
 "you are a Sorcerer, an Enchanter, a
 "Chemist, or the Devil."

CHAPTER THE FORTY-FIRST.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-FIRST.

The Consolation VANILLO received during his Confinement.

THE Inquisitor's last words afforded very little consolation to my mind. "HOLY GOD!" exclaimed I as I entered my cell, "what will be the end of all these machinations? My Judges, whether from ignorance or malice, have only to declare, that my pomade has a Cabalistic smell, and the poor Chemist will be condemned to the flames. Oh, Heavens! Innocent as I am, I may be burned alive at the next *auto de fe*."

THIS reflection deeply afflicted my mind, which sunk into so profound a melancholy, as would, in all probability, soon have bereaved me of my senses, if Heaven had not averted the misfortune, by sending me, on the ensuing day, consolation which I never expected.

ONE of the Guards, who generally supplied me with my allowance of victuals, on entering my cell, appeared, contrary to custom, inclined to speak to me.

"UNHAPPY prisoner," said he, in a low tone of voice, "is not your name VANILLO GONZALES?"

"IT is, my friend," replied I; "that is my name."

"THEN," replied the Guard, "I am charged with a message which I have undertaken to deliver to you at the risque of all the danger to which I expose myself by interesting myself in your affairs. There are two Ladies so anxious for your safety, that they are stirring Heaven and earth in order to release you from the fangs of the Inquisition. They have already engaged several powerful noble men to interest themselves in your cause; and, I can assure you, that the power of their intercession is so great, that you have every reason to hope for a speedy release."

A RAY of comfort beamed upon my afflicted mind.

"My friend," replied I to the Guard,
"it is mortifying to my feelings, that I am
"only able to reward your kindness by
"words, for the Holy Office has deprived
"me of——."

"I KNOW it well," replied he, with
precipitation, "they have only left you
"that which it was not in their power to
"take away: but I expect no more from
"you than mere thanks; if I desire more,
"the Ladies, who interest themselves so
"warmly in your favour, will reward me
"liberally."

"TELL me," said I, "tell me the
"names of these charitable females, who
"are attempting this enterprize for my de-
"liverance."

"EXCUSE me, Signior GONZALES, re-
plied he, "I cannot satisfy your curiosity
"on this subject, for they expressly forbid
"me to disclose their names: but they,
"at the same time, desired me to inform
"you, that they would never rest until you
"were released from confinement."

THE Guard, having in this manner discharged his commission, hastily retired, lest his longer stay might excite suspicion.

AFTER his departure, "I wish," said I, "that this friendly Guard had told me the names of my generous protectors, whom I suspect to be the Countess and the Alcade's wife, or perhaps the Marchioness. These ladies, being informed by common report of my misfortune, are impelled by gratitude to relieve my distress. But may I not deceive myself by this conjecture? May not the lovely agents who are making so many efforts in my favour rather be Signiora DALFA and her niece?" I paused for some time upon this idea. "Yes," cried I, "it must be them, I can doubt of it no longer. The rumour of my imprisonment has reached their ears, and BERNARDINA has certainly applied to the Count de MEDELIN to intercede for me."

THE circumstance which confirmed me still more in this opinion was, that as I had not yet communicated to them the

promised secret, the fear of losing it would induce them to solicit my liberty.

It was in fact these two ladies who had tampered with the Guard. He acknowledged it to me on the following day.

"It is true, Signior GONZALES," said he, "that you are indebted to BERNARDINA and Signiora DALFA, her aunt, for the trifling service I rendered you yesterday. They engaged me to inform you, that having heard you were in the custody of THE HOLY OFFICE, they had raised a party to protect you. The Count de MEDELLIN, and the Prior of CASTILE, on their entreaties, have importuned the Grand Inquisitor, with whom they are particularly intimate; and I have no doubt they will obtain your enlargement. Not indeed," continued the Guard, "without considerable difficulty; for this Judge informed his noble friends that you were charged with SORCERY, and you know that Sorcery is a crime to which the Inquisition shew no mercy. You may, however, expect every thing from the influence of two such friends."

THESE

THESE observations gave new inquietude to my mind. "If the Inquisitor," said I, "obstinately persists in his inclination to make me guilty, he will pay no regard to the solicitations of these noblemen, who, on their parts, piqued at having requested the release of a prisoner in vain, will quarrel with him, and I shall be the victim of their disagreement."

IN truth, on the evening of the ensuing day, the Guard, in bringing me my supper, said to me, "I have just seen the Ladies, and they desire me to inform you, that the Count de MEDELLIN and the Prior of CASTILE were so little satisfied with the success of their application to the Grand Inquisitor, that they have applied to the Count de OLIVAREZ, the Prime-Minister, and requested him, from motives of humanity, to interpose on your behalf, and save an innocent man from the flames. They described to him the metamorphoses attributed to your poem, and his Excellency, after a hearty laugh, has assured them, that you shall not fall a victim to the Holy Indignation
" of

"of the Inquisition. Of this the Ladies
 "charged me to give you information. In
 "a few days I will acquaint you what
 "the Count of OLIVAREZ shall have
 "done in this affair."

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-SECOND.

The Manner and Condition in which VANILLO was released from the Dungeon of the Holy Inquisition.

THE report which the Guard conveyed to me, afforded me some hope of being released. Conscious that the Count de OLIVAREZ, less Minister than King, was capable of effecting whatever he pleased, I persuaded myself that THE GRAND INQUISITOR would readily release me upon his request; and I was not deceived in my conjectures.

THE Minister, on going as usual to the Royal Levee, met the Inquisitor in the anti-chamber, and accosting him with a smile, drew him aside, saying, "Mr. Inquisitor, I have a favour to request of your reverence."

"A FAVOUR

"A FAVOUR to request," replied the Monk, with an humble aspect, "I beg you will command me."

"THERE is," replied the Minister, "in the prisons of the Inquisition, a celebrated chemist named GONZALES, and you will do me a favour by setting him at liberty."

"THE evidence against him," replied the Inquisitor, "proves most clearly that he deals in magic; but I cannot refuse any thing to your Excellency: he shall be emancipated to-morrow. But," continued he, "I trust that your Excellency will think it right that his enlargement should be managed in such a way as not to discredit the proceedings of our Holy Office."

"I AM willing he should be so discharged," replied the Minister, "God forbid that I should wish, in the slightest degree, to prejudice the authority of your high tribunal. I shall be content if this prisoner is, by any means, delivered safe and sound out of your custody."

THE Inquisitor punctually performed his promise. But it was necessary that I should previously undergo certain ceremonies which THE HOLY OFFICE scrupulously observe upon such occasions and which, as I no longer dread its power, I will venture to describe.

ON the day after THE PRIME MINISTER had applied to THE GRAND INQUISITOR I was conducted into a large hall, where the Inquisitor waited to give me leave of absence.

"GONZALES," said he, "your process is at an end, and you are now about to be discharged from prison; but, in conformity to antient usage, you must first confess that you are—*Guilty*."

"How, *Guilty*?" interrupted I hastily; "I never will confess that."

"LISTEN to me with attention," interrupted the Monk in his turn, "and do not perversely injure your own interests. As the Holy Inquisition never arrests any person unjustly, it is always expected, that when a prisoner is released, he shall, notwithstanding—standing—"

“standing his innocence, confess himself
“guilty, in order that he may entitle himself
“to mercy.”

CONFOUNDED by this metaphysical reasoning, I confessed every thing the Inquisitor asked of me.

“Now,” said he, “there is only one
“thing more remains to be done to experience the mercy of the Holy Office;” and at the same time opening A MISSAL which lay upon the table, and desiring me to place my hand upon it, said,

“You promise and swear that you will preserve an eternal silence respecting every thing you have heard or seen in THE INQUISITION, and respecting the time or manner of your imprisonment there; that you will never speak of this tribunal or its ministers, except with profound respect.”

“If therefore any trait of raillery should escape from your lips against this sacred Institution, you may probably repent of it; for, in whatever city, town, borough, or other place in SPAIN, you may chance to be, there are officers who watch unceasingly over its interest, and who arrest,
“without

“without distinction, every person who
“dares to speak of it with irreverence.
“Therefore take good care upon this
“point,” continued the Monk; “for if
“you unfortunately again fall into our
“hands, you will be punished as a *relapse*,
“and of course committed to the flames,
“without the interest even of the power-
“ful protector to whom you are indebted
“for your present enlargement, being able
“to save you. Take, therefore, the oath
“I demand of you, and retire to whatever
“place you please.”

“But my most reverend Father,” said
I, “have the goodness, if you please, to
“return me my clothes and my portman-
“teau.”

“Ah! my young friend,” replied his
Reverence, as if he had been moved with
compassion for my distress, “I pity you,
“and that is all you can receive from me.
“The moment a person accused is con-
“fined in the prison of the Holy Office,
“on a suspicion of *MAGIC*, from that mo-
“ment all his property is forfeited to the
“use of the King; and it is a rule of the
“spiritual

"spiritual, law that confiscation is irrevocable. It is unfortunate for you; but you must console yourself by reflecting that the majority of the prisoners seldom escape, as you have done, only with the loss of their property."

This discourse convincing me that his Reverence, the Grand Inquisitor, had no desire to release my portmanteau from his custody, I submitted with a good grace to the confiscation; and, taking the oath upon THE MISSAL, that I would never speak of those Gentlemen, the Conductors of the HOLY OFFICE, except with praise, I issued from their prisons, almost naked; the door-keepers of this infernal region, in order to have a share in my Spoils, having, as I went out, taken from me the decent clothes I then had on, and given me, in exchange, an old black coat, divested of its sleeves, which, from the fingers yet apparent on many parts of it, was evidently the remains of the last covering of some unhappy victim who had been devoted to the flames.

CHAP-

CHAPTER THE FORTY-THIRD.

VANILLO expresses his Gratitude to DALFA and BERNARDINA for procuring his Enlargement; the consoling Reception he met with from those Ladies; and the Secret he communicated to them in Return.

I FELT such a sense of shame from the miserable condition in which I appeared on my departure from the prison of the Inquisition, that I sought refuge in a neighbouring church, which, thank Heaven, was quite empty, where, concealing myself behind a tomb, I awaited the approach of night; and, the moment it arrived, I flew to the house of my fair benefactors. But alas! so far were they from immediately recollecting me under my present disguise, that they felt a temporary

porary alarm, until farther observation brought me to their minds; when they instantly burst into loud and repeated fits of laughter.

"I AM happy to find, Ladies," said I, "that the prison uniform pleases you."

"WHY, yes," replied BERNARDINA, who was still a lively laughing girl; "and we are particularly pleased with your waist-coat; it gives you a gallant air; but it is a great pity that it smells so strongly of the *auto de fe*."

"It is," replied I, "a present which I received from the prison guards, in exchange for a good suit of clothes which they stripped from my shoulders."

THE Ladies, having indulged their mirth, assumed a serious air, and expressed the pain they had felt at my confinement.

"We experienced additional mortification," said they, "in as much as we, having persuaded you to sell your lotion and pomade, were the original cause of it."

"LADIES," replied I, "if you did innocently lead me into alarming danger, you

"you have in recompence happily released
 "me from it. It has cost me, it is true,
 "all that I was worth; but I am accustomed
 "to the caprices of fortune."

"My niece and I," replied the aunt,
 "sincerely wish that we were sufficiently
 "rich to offer you more than you have
 "lost; but, however limited our circum-
 "stances are, we have at least enough to
 "place you in the same situation as when
 "you first became acquainted with the
 "Grand Inquisitor."

SIGNIORA DALFA, when she spoke in
 this stile, conceived that this Judge had
 only rifled me of the presents I had re-
 ceived for embellishing the patients they
 had procured me; for I had never spoken
 one word either to her or her niece of my
 uncle's ducats.

"MADAM," replied I, "this is carrying
 "generosity too far, and I should abuse
 "your kindness if I were to accept
 "of ———."

"For shame, GONZALES," interrupted
 BERNARDINA, with an impulse which disco-
 vered the goodness of her heart; "does it
 "become

“become you to be ceremonious with your
 “friends? You shall live with us. We
 “can provide you with a small apartment;
 “where, you will not be badly accommo-
 “dated; and you shall share our table and
 “our purse.”

THIS proposal was made to me so gra-
 ciously, that I could not avoid accepting of
 it; besides it was not convenient to a man
 with such a singed jacket as mine to refuse
 so kind an offer. I accordingly became a
 boarder with my female friends, with whom
 I sat down to supper, dressed as I was.
 My burlesque habit, indeed, instead of being
 offensive, became the subject of much oc-
 casional merriment, and inspired them with
 pleasantries which heightened the excel-
 lency of the repast. It will easily be con-
 ceived, that the Holy Inquisition was not
 spared by my lively friends; and I must
 confess, that I even forgot the recent oath
 I had taken on the sacred MISSAL, while a
 variety of sarcastic observations escaped
 from me on the proceedings of that tri-
 bunal; but, suddenly recollecting myself,
 I put the seal of silence on my lips,

to the great entertainment of my fair friends. Hush, VANILLO, hush, recollect that you have promised to speak nothing but in praise of these Gentlemen, whatever cause you may have had to consider them in the light of Barbary Corsairs, or otherwise to complain of their conduct. So high indeed were my spirits and good humour during supper, that the loss of my portmanteau seemed a matter of perfect indifference; my heart, however, sensibly felt this misfortune, and I could not recollect it without sending every inquisition on the face of the earth to the Devil.

HAVING entertained ourselves for some time at table, each of us retired to our respective apartments. I found in mine a comfortable bed, instead of a cold truss of straw like that I had laid on in prison; and the richness of the furniture corresponded to the goodness of the bed: every thing in the apartment, indeed, did great honour to the taste of Count MEDELLIN. Having viewed the several articles with pleasure, I undressed myself, a ceremony which was very speedily performed, and went to bed,

in hope of making only one nap during the night; but contrary to my expectation, and as if the bed had not been made to sleep on, I never closed my eyes until a quarter of an hour before the break of day; when, falling into a profound repose, I did not awake until long after the sun had risen.

ABOUT nine o'clock in the morning the door of my chamber opened, and Signior DALFA, attended by three men, two of whom carried bundles of clothes, entered the room. "Signior GONZALES," said the Lady; "here is the most fashionable taylor in MADRID, who will shew you a variety of habits which you will try on." Having uttered these words, she retired, in order that I might be more at liberty; and the taylor and his attendants, without further ceremony, opened their packets, and displayed five or six new and rich suits of clothes quite complete, and each, in regular degrees, more superb than the other. There was one which particularly pleased me, and I chose it, less from its magnificence, rich as it was, than because it appeared to have been made on purpose for me, so

very

very nicely did it fit me. The taylor also furnished me with a sword, a castor hat, silk stockings, shoes, shirts, and every other article of dress; all by the order and at the expence of my lovely benefactors, who, notwithstanding every thing I said to the contrary, forced me, in addition to these presents, to accept a purse of fifty doubloons. Perfectly satisfied with what their table afforded, and with the comfortable lodging they had provided me with, I requested they would stop there, and permit me to depend upon my own care and industry for the rest.

"WHY, truly," replied BERNADINA, "it depends entirely upon yourself to gain twenty times as much as you have lost. Continue the sale of your lotion and powder; that is all you have to do."

"EGAD!" interrupted I, "I shall be very cautious how I take up that trade again. The same envy which has already pointed me out to the attention of the Holy Office will not fail to place me again in its hands; and you know in what manner they will proceed against a *Relapse* accused of Sorcery."

“Your fears are just,” replied the aunt;
 “relinquish this profession to our manage-
 ment; my niece and I will conduct it for
 you with so much secrecy and ad-
 dress, that you shall taste the sweets of
 it without incurring the smallest risque.
 Teach us to compound these antidotes
 to age and ugliness, and, without any
 farther trouble, you shall receive one
 third of the profits.”

I DID not long hesitate to enter into a
 co-partnership so beneficial to myself; and,
 without farther delay, I not only gave them
 the prescription of POTOSHI, specifying all
 the necessary ingredients of the compo-
 sition, but instructed them in the art by
 which they were compounded; an art they
 acquired with astonishing facility, so much
 had they the work at heart.

AFTER employing five or six days upon
 this subject, and having well instructed
 them, they assured me I might leave it
 hereafter to their own management. “It
 is now our business” said Signiora
 DALFA, “to labour for the general benefit
 of our snug concern.”

“YES,”

“Yes,” replied the neice, “we will now
“exonerate you from all further trouble,
“and will dispose of our production without
“your appearing in the business, and render
“you a faithful account of the profits.
“While we are busy you may take your
“pleasure; enjoy the company of friends;
“frequent with them the fashionable circles
“of the capital; or visit the theatres as
“a dramatic critic; in short, you may pass
“your time in the manner most agreeable
“to your inclination; and if you chuse to
“return to your hotel we will not even insist
“on your residing with us.”

“LADIES,” replied I; “let us speak
“candidly to each other upon this subject.
“It seems to me to be absolutely necessary,
“that we should have separate dwellings,
“and even that we should not be seen to
“have any connexion. I shall take occasional
“opportunities of visiting you in the
“evenings. With these precautions we
“shall dispose of our merchandize without
“anxiety, and elude the care and vigilance
“of my enemies, who, without doubt, will
“watch my conduct.”

My associates approved of my advice, and we accordingly agreed to separate; they, in the resolution of re-adorning faces injured by time, and I charmed with the prospect of deriving a large revenue from the traffic, without the danger of being thought a party concerned.

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-FOURTH.

VANILLO returns to his Hotel. The Conversation he has with his Host; and the Joy he felt on meeting with his former Friend FERRARI. The Consequences which resulted from this Renewal of their Acquaintance.

ON quitting the hospitable roof of my fair associates, I directed my steps towards my old mansion, that is, towards my hotel. My host, on seeing me, conceived it was my apparition. "Is it really you, GONZALES," exclaimed he with astonishment?

"It is I myself, my dear ANDRESILLO," replied I; embracing him. "You did not expect that I should so speedily return; did you?"

"No, by my faith," replied he, "I did not. The Holy Inquisition, which I take to be the most wicked of the three wicked holies of SPAIN, does not, in general, re-Inquish its prey very soon. To tell you the truth, I thought you irredeemable."

"Ah! why so, replied I; "are not the Judges of this Holy Tribunal as just as they are enlightened: was I not certain of being liberated the moment my innocence appeared."

"Oh yes! certainly," replied ANDRE-SILLO; "but have they also liberated your effects. That is the question here."

"Hush, hush, my friend," replied I; putting my finger to my mouth. "Do not, I beg of you, mention a subject which may induce me to violate a silence which I must maintain for the remainder of my life. It is not," added I, "that I am not thoroughly persuaded I might open my mind to you without restraint."

"Oh, that you may with perfect safety, I assure you," replied he, "I am a discreet man; and, more than that, I am your friend: besides, whatever bad you may tell

"tell me of those Gentlemen, I shall still
 "think worse. I once knew," continued
 ANDRESILLO, who was rather disposed to
 chatter; "I once knew a very honest Gen-
 "tleman who was confined three years in
 "their prisons without knowing why; and
 "as he continued to assert his Innocence;
 "he was condemned to the flames; but on
 "the evening of the day appointed for his
 "execution, the dreadful preparations
 "which were made for his punishment;
 "appalled his mind; and, contrary to the
 "testimony of his conscience, he confessed
 "himself GUILTY, in order to save his life;
 "but it did not save his large property
 "from confiscation, or himself from being
 "sent for five years to the galleys."

ANDRESILLO was in too good a train of
 talking against THE HOLY OFFICE to stop
 here; and he made me endure the recital of
 five or six other histories, to the praise and
 glory of this noble institution, until, at
 length, I was obliged to interrupt him, in
 order to enquire whether he knew what was
 become of my Valer.

"I can-
 not say."

"I CANNOT," said he, "give you the least information of him : all I know is, that, alarmed at your detention, he thought it prudent to decamp, and to assist his flight he took away your mule ; in doing which he only anticipated THE HOLY OFFICE ; for, the moment after his departure, a *Familiar*, big with expectation, came and demanded it. You see from this circumstance, that these Officers are very eager after their prey, and will let nothing escape them ; and I am greatly surprized," added he, "that they have let you out with such good clothes on your back : they do not in general behave so handsomely to their prisoners."

"My friend," said I, "these clothes have been bought since I was released ; those which I had on when I fell into their hands were as good ; but the doorkeepers of the Holy Office thought proper to appropriate them before they let me out."

ANDRESILLO, on hearing these words, laughed incessantly for a quarter of an hour ;

hour; but I, who did not feel there was any thing pleasant in the circumstance, desired him to change the discourse. "Never" said I, "let this Holy Inquisition be again the subject of our conversation. I have a deep interest to preserve upon this subject. I intend to continue my abode with you," added I; "are my apartments vacant?"

"THEY are," replied my host; "you will find them exactly in the same state in which you left them."

"HAVE you as much evening company as you used to have?" enquired I.

"MORE than ever," answered ANDRESILLO. "You will see a great number of new faces."

"It is the very thing I wish for," said I; "it will afford me infinite pleasure; for there is nothing delights me more than a change of scenes."

THE same evening, indeed, I sat down to supper with many Gentlemen who were unknown to me, and with one that I well knew, but whom I did not immediately recollect. It was FERRARI, the Italian

Gentleman, whose friendship had induced me to accompany him from LEGHORN to the seat of his nativity at PISA, where I resided for some time, until I found that I made one too many in his family.

FERRARI, struck with my features, as I was with his, approached me the moment supper was over with open arms. "Signior GONZALES," said he, "permit me, after so long a separation, sincerely to embrace you."

RECEIVING him with equal cordiality, we interchanged, with each other, a thousand civilities, after which FERRARI, changing the stile of conversation, told me, he had much information to give me; and, as we were not in a convenient place to discuss subjects of a private nature, desired I would do him the favour to meet him on THE PRADO, the ensuing morning, at nine o'clock. I promised to meet him there at the appointed hour, assuring him, that his desire, to have a private conversation, great as it might be, could not exceed my own. Upon this we took leave of each other; I retiring.

firing to my old apartments, and he to a ready-furnished lodging in the neighbourhood.

THE ensuing morning, eager as I was to meet him on THE PRADO, I was not the first there. FERRARI was waiting for me. After repeating mutual professions of friendship, "GONZALES," said he, "I know the secret cause of your departing so abruptly from PISA: the lovely ENGRACIA disclosed it to me with her dying breath."

"How?" interrupted I with equal surprise and precipitation; "is ENGRACIA dead?"

"SHE died," replied FERRARI, "about two years ago in child-bed, and her infant soon afterwards followed its mother. My dear husband," said she, while she embraced me for the last time; "among other parts of my conduct, for which perhaps I have occasion to solicit your forgiveness, is the story by which I induced you to believe that your friend GONZALES had betrayed your confidence, and attempted to seduce my virtue. The whole of it was fabrication; he never dis-

"honoured,

“honoured, in any way that I know of, the
“friendship that you afforded him; it was I
“who feigned the tale, in order to banish
“from my sight the painful presence of a
“man who seemed to possess so much of your
“esteem; but I feel, at this awful moment,
“a deep contrition for the injustice I have
“done upon this occasion; and if hereafter,
“chance should cause you to meet again, I
“charge you to obtain for me, if possible,
“his forgiveness.”

“OH! I pardon her from the bottom of
“my heart,” replied I smiling. “Jealousy
“is natural to the sex. The only regret I
“feel is, that it deprived me, for a time,
“of your inestimable friendship.”

“TRUE it is,” replied FERRARI, “the
“account my wife gave me of your perfidy,
“inflamed my feelings to the highest pitch
“of indignation; and, therefore, you will
“easily believe me when I assure you that I
“felt the deepest sorrow for the loss of your
“friendship the moment I was undeceived,

“I AM already acquainted” replied I,
“with the imposition which was prac-
“tised on you. About eight weeks subse-

“quent

“quent to my banishment from PISA, I
“met your wife’s confidential servant,
“SPINETTA, at FLORENCE, and she told
“me, in the same breath, of her having
“quitted the service, and of the trick her
“mistress had used to drive me from your
“house. The lovely deceiver, however,
“has been punished too severely for so ve-
“nial an offence. I sincerely lament her
“premature death, and freely forgive
“her.”

I THEN enquired of FERRARI whether he was again married or remained a widower.

“REMARIED!” exclaimed he with surprise. “No, I shall hereafter live single. The condition of a widower is more convenient than that of a husband. I regret the loss of ENGRACIA; but I feel no temptation to marry again.”

“You astonish me,” cried I; “why adopt such sentiments? What is it that has thus prejudiced you against the marriage state? you perhaps think the loss of ENGRACIA irreparable.”

“No,”

“No,” replied FERRARI; “I think if
“I were inclined to seek a second union, I
“might easily find a companion equally
“agreeable even with ENGRACIA: but,
“between ourselves, a husband has so many
“duties to fulfil, that it becomes inconve-
“nient to a man who loves his liberty.
“ENGRACIA and I loved each other with
“mutual fondness; but still there was al-
“ways something wanting to make me
“happy. Disposed by nature to convivi-
“ality, I now feel myself at liberty to en-
“joy the company and conversation of my
“friends without restraint; but while I
“was fondly attached to ENGRACIA, every
“moment of my life was anxiously devoted
“to please her alone. Perhaps,” added he,
“you think differently on this subject; per-
“haps I may be now speaking to a man
“who is at this moment actually linked in
“the bands of matrimony; and possesses a
“wife who is the idol of his heart.”
“No,” replied I; “I am still a bachelor.
“Once, indeed, I had a fancy to marry;
“but my happy stars prevented me from
“committing

"committing that folly; and I have had no
 "temptation since to quit a single life."

THESE sentiments seemed to afford satisfaction to FERRARI. "I rejoice," said he,
 "to find such a uniformity in our dispositions. It shall not be my fault if we do
 "not hereafter continue friends. Will
 "you once more trust yourself under my
 "roof. I have quitted my residence at
 "PISA, and exchanged the pleasures of
 "ITALY for those of SPAIN. My aunt who
 "formerly lived at MONTREAL is dead. She
 "bequeathed to me, among other property,
 "a comfortable villa near BURGOS,
 "of which I took possession about fifteen
 "months ago; and on which I now entirely
 "reside. I have the happiness to possess
 "the society of three or four very agree-
 "able neighbours; and if you will
 "afford us your company, you will greatly
 "contribute to encrease the pleasure we en-
 "joy."

THE proposal which this Gentleman made to me, I should probably have declined to accept of, if I had been still in the possession of my valuable portmanteau; but

but, in the condition to which THE HOLY OFFICE had reduced me, I considered FERRARI'S offer as an advantage of which prudence compelled me to accept; besides, after what I had experienced, I was not sorry to absent myself from MADRID, at least for some time. I accordingly, promised FERRARI that I would return with him to BURGOS. "All I fear, my friend," said I, "is, that you may once more take a fancy for matrimony, and that your second wife may, like the first, prove fatal to our friendship."

"Oh!" replied he, "you have nothing to apprehend on that subject. I am sick of wives. The reluctance I entertain to matrimony will prevent me from taking any woman as a wife. Bright as female charms may appear to shine around the character of any particular female, I shall never suffer my mind to be so dazzled by them, as to imagine her entirely faultless. Spots are discoverable even in the sun. Where is the woman to be found who is perfectly good tempered, and entirely free from whim?

and

" Beautiful

“ Beautiful appearances ought to induce
“ the most distrust; for they frequently con-
“ ceal the greatest defects. ENGRACIA,
“ for example, my adored wife ENGRACIA,
“ appeared, when I married her, to possess
“ angelic mildness. The winning softness
“ of her manners charmed me; but ceasing
“ soon to follow the restraints which had
“ adorned her character, she discovered a
“ disposition naturally impetuous and vio-
“ lent; and, worse than all the rest, be-
“ came, whenever she was contradicted, a
“ little devil. In short, it was ENGRACIA
“ who caused my feelings to revolt against
“ the state of matrimony; and, therefore,
“ you may rely with confidence upon my
“ assurance, that the torch of Hymen will
“ never again light me to the altar.”

“ THE confidence which these sentiments
“ excite,” said I, “ prevent any farther
“ hesitation. I am ready to depart when-
“ ever you please.”

“ I SHALL leave MADRID immediately,”
replied my friend; “ I visited the metropo-
“ lis merely to behold the Court of a Ca-
“ tholic King; and, having seen and ad-
“ mired

"mired its magnificence, my curiosity is
"satisfied. A carriage and three excellent
"mules await my orders at the hotel where
"I lodge; and to-morrow, if agreeable,
"we will proceed to BURGOS."

"WITH all my heart," replied I; "pro-
"vided you have no objection to permit a
"person who has but recently escaped
"from the prisons of the HOLY OFFICE,
"to become your companion."

FERRARI started back with horror as I
uttered these words. "What do you say?"
cried he. "Oh Heavens! explain your-
"self immediately. Have you had the
"misfortune to behold the horrible dan-
"geons of THE HOLY INQUISITION?"

"I was there not long ago," replied I;
"but I shall remember them while life
"exists."

"AND what occasion," replied he,
"could you have given to that Tribunal
"to arrest you? Do me the favour to re-
"late to me the particulars of this adven-
"ture."

FERRARI listened to the faithful narra-
tive which I gave of this transaction, with
extreme

extreme attention; sometimes exhibiting emotions of pity and indignation, and, at others, bursting into laughter, from which it was impossible he should refrain. Having concluded, "I should have found this history rather entertaining," said he, "if your portmanteau had been restored: but what could you expect? Confiscation is the primary object of every Inquisition. You would not have been better treated by our Italian Tribunals. After such a disaster you will feel great consolation in quitting MADRID."

"I SHALL make no farther objection to bear you company," said I. "I wish we were now at BURGOS, where, not being known by any person, I shall run no risque of having the finger of scorn pointed at me as I walk along."

214

CHAPTER THE FORTY-FIFTH.

VANILLO takes Leave of his two Associates Signiora DALFA and BERNADINA, and goes from MADRID to BURGOS.

CAREFUL, as you will easily conceive, not to leave MADRID without bidding adieu to my associates, I paid them a visit in the dusk of the evening, and informed them, that having accidentally met an old friend who was inclined to take me with him to BURGOS, we had agreed to set off early on the ensuing morning.

“AH!” replied Signiora DALFA, “your mind I perceive is continually alarmed. Your fears, however, are without foundation; you might remain in MADRID with perfect safety, and enjoy its pleasures with ease and affluence. But I am
“conscious

"conscious all the eloquence I possess
 "would be vainly exerted in attempting to
 "dissuade you from this unnecessary flight.
 "Indulge, therefore, these fears. Repair
 "to Burgos, or to any other place you
 "please, and assure yourself, that in what-
 "ever quarter of the globe you may re-
 "side, we will render you a faithful ac-
 "count of all the profits of our co-part-
 "nership."

BERNADINA confirmed the promise of her
 aunt; and insisted on advancing me, until
 the joint fund should accumulate, a hun-
 dred pistoles on account. Thanking my
 fair friends for this kind accommodation,
 and interchanging reciprocal professions of
 friendship and esteem, I returned to the
 hotel to sup with FERRARI, who desired
 me, when we parted, to hold myself in
 readiness to depart early on the ensuing
 morning; a request with which I did not
 fail to comply; and, just as the morning
 sun was beginning to shoot his beams above
 the horizon, an elegant carriage, drawn by
 two fine mules, driven by a postillion, and
 attended by a valet on a third mule, ap-
 peared

peared at the gate, in which we deposited a large trunk containing FERRARI's clothes, and a small cloak bag inclosing the linen that the ladies had presented to me, and proceeded towards BURGOS. We slept the first night at PAULAR, the second at ARANDA, and the third at VALLADOLID, where we continued two days, to behold a City which had been so frequently honoured by the residence of Royalty; and, on the fifth day afterwards, happily arrived at the villa of FERRARI, which was situated about a quarter of a mile from BURGOS, near the Plains of HONORIA.

THE villa of FERRARI if it offered nothing superb to the view, convinced the observer at least, that it was not in Chancery; for its condition was excellent; and, what pleased me better, the estate belonging to it had the reputation of producing to its owner six thousand ducats a year. The inside was perfectly correspondent to its external appearance; the furniture and other ornaments, though not magnificent, were elegant, and of the best kind. The gardens and ornamented pleasure grounds were

were situated in the middle of a park sufficiently extensive to afford even the amusements of the chace. A spot better suited to the then disposition of my mind could not have been selected; for although I had no reason any longer to dread the Inquisition, I felt, from time to time, in spite of all my endeavours to suppress the painful apprehension, as if *Familiars* were continually at my heels. I lived in short the life of a hare. Suppressing, however, the perturbation of my mind, I assumed a gay and easy manner; and, by this means, rendered myself agreeable to all FERRARI's friends. Among others, there were two Gentlemen who, though they possessed very opposite characters, were particularly partial to me, and I confess that I was equally pleased with them. Both these Gentlemen, Don SEBASTIAN DE RODILLAS, and Don MATHIAS DE GRAJAL, resided in the vicinity of BURGOS, and were nearly of the same ages, that is, from thirty-five to forty, rich in honour, and poor in wealth. Living upon the produce of their small estates, they supported, by good management and economy, the characters of

Gentlemen with equal decency and pride. Unable to treat their friends sumptuously, they contrived to supply the deficiencies of luxury by the more refined pleasures of the intellect, and were men of high spirit and agreeable conversation. Don SEBASTIAN, possessed a talent of writing songs and setting them himself to music; and Don MATHIAS had the happy art of relating anecdotes and telling stories in a way exquisitely lively and humourous. It was impossible, in short, to be dejected in their company. FERRARI, however, who was extremely happy in having two such Gentlemen for his neighbours, generally entertained us at his own house, though we sometimes visited them.

ONE day, while we were dining at Don SEBASTIAN's house, a young man, with a large pilgrim's staff in his hand, his clothes all torn, and his beard long and black, entered the room. The sight of him immediately brought my *fortie* from the Inquisition, in my finged jacket, to my recollection; but Don SEBASTIAN, notwithstanding his appearance, no sooner observed him, than

than he exclaimed, "Heavenly God! it is my brother Don JOACHIM: I know him in spite of his tattered clothes and unshaven beard."

"Yes, my brother," replied the young man, "it is Don JOACHIM who stands before you; but do not be surprized at seeing me in this condition. A poor devil who returns from BARBARY after a captivity of five years cannot well make a better appearance."

"WHATEVER may be the cause of your deplorable situation," replied Don SEBASTIAN; "I return my thanks a thousand and a thousand times to Heaven for restoring you to my arms."

IN uttering these words, he rose with transports from the table to embrace his brother, who, on his side, shewed the correspondent joy which overwhelmed his heart.

WHEN the fond transports of fraternal affection had, in some degree subsided, Don SEBASTIAN presented Don JOACHIM to FERRARI, to Don MATHIAS, and to MYSELF. We saluted him with cordiality;

and, on congratulating him on his return to BURGOS, soon discovered, from the answers he made to our congratulations, that he was by no means deficient in understanding.

On his taking his seat at the table, we expected to behold a famished traveller who would have eagerly devoured the victuals with which it was covered; but, on the contrary, he preserved the greatest temperance, and scarcely eat three mouthfuls.

FERRARI, astonished at this circumstance, said to him, "For a man who appears to have travelled far, I wonder you have not a better appetite."

"It is true," said Don SEBASTIAN, "I have been observing it with surprize."

"My dear brother," replied Don JOACHIM, "you must attribute it to the joy I feel at this moment in seeing you again; a moment which I have so long and so ardently desired."

"A MOMENT," replied Don SEBASTIAN, "which I also have long and ardently wished for. It is now seven years since
"you

“you departed from this house to go to
“COMPOSTELLA with an intention to per-
“form at the shrine of its tutelary saint the
“vow you made during your dangerous
“illness; and since that day I have never
“heard of you. What prevented your
“return? What have you been doing dur-
“ing this long interval? From what place
“did you last come?”

“FROM ALGIERS,” replied Don Jo-
ACHIM; “that City so fatal to Christians,
“and which may be justly stiled the abode
“of cruelty. I have, however, drank less
“from the bitter cup of adversity than
“many others, as you will perceive; when
“I have an opportunity of relating to you
“the circumstances of my story.”

“You may speak without reserve before
“these Gentlemen,” said Don SEBASTIAN,

“YES,” replied Don MATHIAS, “you
“are now in the retreat of friendship.
“Relate to us the history of your adven-
“tures. You cannot have an audience
“more interested in your happiness.”

"I WILL then," replied Don JOACHIM, "relate to you the extraordinary circumstances of my captivity."

AND he immediately began in the following manner.

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-SIXTH.

THE HISTORY

OF

DON JOACHIM DE RODILLAS.

WHILE I was proceeding to the shrine of the saint to fulfil my vow, I overtook, upon the Frontiers of GALLICIA, a young pilgrim of nearly the same age with myself, who was going to COMPOSTELLA with the like intention. Politely saluting each other, we engaged in conversation with all the unsuspecting confidence of youth; and, after acquainting him that I came from BURGOS, and learning in return that he was a native of the ASTURIAS DE SANTELLANA, we reciprocally communicated to each other the objects of our journey, and agreed to perform the pious ceremony together. Proceeding accordingly to the shrine of St. JACQUES, we fulfilled our respective vows, and accompanied each other back on the same road we

had travelled, with an intention of returning to our several homes. On our arrival at PORTA-FERRATA it became necessary to take different routes; but a certain sympathy had linked our hearts so strongly together, that we had not resolution to part. "I cannot tell," said my young companion, "whether you feel any reluctance to separate; but I must candidly confess that the idea of parting gives me great pain."

I assured my companion that I could make the same declaration with equal sincerity; that his polite manners and lively conversation had won my heart; and that I felt a deeper sorrow at the idea of losing his agreeable company, than I was able to express.

"If that be the case," replied he, "there can be no reason why we should bid each other adieu. Let us still enjoy the pleasure of each other's company, and make an excursion together through SPAIN. Come; let us unite our fortunes, and indulge a truant disposition; the natural levity of youth will excuse this frolic to our families."

A PRO-

A PROPOSAL which opened to me the prospect of enjoying the company of a friend and indulging the curiosity of my mind, was not, as you will readily conceive, very disagreeable to me; and I told the young Asturian that I would instantly accede to it, if I had been better supplied with those pecuniary resources which such a scheme would unavoidably require; that I was unfortunately dependant on the bounty of an elder brother, who, being born four or five years before me, was in possession of the family estate, and had given me but a scanty supply for the purpose of my then expedition; and that I had only three pistoles left to carry me back to BURGOS.

"My finances," replied the Asturian, "would have been in a condition equally low if I had merely trusted to the generosity of the old miser, my father; but apprehensive that I might want more money than he might think proper to supply me with, I prudently took care to provide myself with an additional sum, by secretly purloining from his hoards a purse containing fifty doubloons; and, by

L 5.

"the

“the assistance of this fund, we shall be
“enabled to reach SALAMANCA, where
“we shall have leisure to consider of the
“measures it may be most advisable for us
“to take in further prosecution of our design.”

BLAMEABLE as the conduct of the Asturian certainly was, I could not help applauding his precaution; and, immediately determining to prosecute our wild project, we directed our course towards SALAMANCA. I am at a loss to guess why we preferred this city to any other, if it was not on account of its university, which we had frequently heard of, and wished to see. On arriving at SALAMANCA we hired apartments at a fashionable hotel, where my companion sent for a taylor to rid him of his pilgrim's garment, and to furnish him with the dress of a Cavalier in the stile of that which I then wore. We also purchased linen and other articles for our immediate use. These disbursements occasioned a melancholy decrease in our funds; but, in lieu of money, we had the satisfaction to see ourselves equipped in the stile of two young noblemen; and,

and, after staying four days to see every thing worthy of observation in this city, we hastily took our leave, and, on the ensuing morning, directed our course, capuchin fashion, towards MADRID, to judge for ourselves whether the magnificence of the Spanish Court equalled the superb idea we had conceived of it; each of us carrying by turns, on our shoulders, the cloak bag which contained our linen. Just as we were entering the village of ALDA LUENGA we heard a jingling of bells behind us, which we found proceeded from three mules which a muleteer was conducting, and two of which were unoccupied. When the muleteer came near us, we asked him where he was going: "To MADRID," said he. "And how much will you take," said I, "to convey two young truants who are short of cash." "Masters," replied the Muleteer, "you shall give me what you please; two of my mules are empty, and I have no objection to your taking advantage of it." We accordingly mounted the mules, and proceeded

proceeded to VILLAFLO, on the borders of OLD CASTILE, where we slept.

OUR first care, on entering the inn, was to order a good supper; and the host conceiving that we were enabled to pay well, executed our orders with great alacrity. When supper was ready we were so satisfied with the behaviour of the muleteer, that we insisted on his partaking of the treat; and we all sat down to a ragout of rabbits, which I tasted at first with some reluctance, apprehending it might be made of some other animal; but the muleteer pledged himself for the host's honesty, and upon his warranty, we eat unnauseated, as if we had been famished. The ensuing morning we continued our journey in the same manner; and arrived the day after at MADRID, where the young Asturian presented the muleteer with a double pistole for our conveyance; but, muleteer as he was, he generously refused it, saying, "He could not think of taking money from Gentlemen who had treated him so handsomely on the road." QUITTING this disinterested mule-driver, and enquiring for the Court end of the

TOWN,

town, we went, according to the directions we received, to an hotel of elegant appearance, the master of which shewed us himself to the apartments he allotted us; and, you may easily conceive, that, as we were without servants or equipage, they were not the best in the house; they were neat, however, and sufficiently commodious to satisfy persons much more difficult than we were.

THE host, curious to learn who we were, enquired, while he bowed and begged pardon for taking so great a liberty, into our motives for visiting MADRID; and no sooner was he told that we had come, merely to gratify a desire we had long felt, to see this first city in the world, than he exclaimed, "God be thanked, my noble young Gentlemen, you have good reason to call it so, for there is no place comparable to MADRID: besides the Catholic Sovereigns generally chuse it for their residence. "Yes," continued he with enthusiasm, "the Royal palace alone, and the marvelous things it contains, deservedly brings travellers to admire them, from all the extremities

“extremities of the globe. You will be
“charmed, for instance, when you behold
“THE ARSENAL, which is one hundred
“paces long; the Wardrobes of CHARLES
“THE FIFTH, and his successors, the three
“PHILIPS; you cannot conceive the quan-
“tities of gold and silver arms which are
“there preserved, together with pistols,
“darts, and horse-trappings of various
“kinds; but, above all, you will be en-
“chanted when you see the six men on
“horseback covered with emeralds, which
“EMANUEL, DUKE OF SAVOY, presented
“to PHILIP THE SECOND. If there were
“nothing else in MADRID worthy of your
“observation, you will not regret your
“journey.”

THE host, who loved to be talking, having described to us all the curiosities of MADRID, intimated that it was near supper-time; and we desired him to roast a partridge and a young rabbit as soon as possible. He not only executed this order with great expedition, but waited on us himself during the repast, and obliged us to listen to a tedious description of the beauties of the city and its surrounding

surrounding territory; in which, deficient as he was of the talent of embellishing the objects he attempted to paint, he did not fail to excite our impatience to behold these wonders of the world.

THE ensuing day had scarcely dawned when we arose from our beds, and dressing ourselves with as much haste as if we had not a moment to lose, we issued from the hotel with eager curiosity, and proceeded to hear mass at the church of our Lady of ALMUDENA, so called from the starve of a Saint which is said to have been brought from Holy Land by ST. JAMES of COMPOSTELLA. We next visited the Market-place, celebrated by the battles of the bull which are there exhibited; and, struck by the magnificence of the buildings which surround it, we stopped to examine with attention the *Consistorio*, or palace, which the King occupies when he is present at the games. This royal edifice and the other superb structures which surround it, prepossessed our minds so warmly in favour of the Capital of the Monarchy, that every object excited admiration.

“WHAT

"WHAT superb buildings," cried my comrade, stopping at every noble mansion we passed. "I perceive we are not now in a provincial town: observe those shops, what immense riches they contain; and the traders how grave they appear. Do you not perceive in them a dignified demeanor, which the merchants of other places do not possess? They have the air of Roman Citizens."

AFTER passing a month in traversing the different quarters of this immense metropolis; sometimes visiting the most celebrated churches and examining their respective curiosities; sometimes walking in the park of *Buen Retiro* which is filled with ostriches, cameleons, bears, and other aerial and terrestrial animals; attending almost every morning the Royal Levee, where the prepossessions of our mind attributed to certain great men a degree of respectability which nature had refused; the contents of our purse were so nearly exhausted, that we began to be seriously uneasy.

OUR inquietude, however, was not of long duration; for being informed that Government

vernment was upon the point of sending recruits to LOMBARDY, we immediately adopted the gallant resolution to serve the King; the Asturian rather chusing to take this course than to return home and endure the reproaches, and, perhaps, even the cruel treatment of his father; and I, feeling no inclination to quit the company of a friend who was become so agreeable to me. Determined, therefore, to try our fortunes in the fields of war, we procured the address of the commanding Officer, whose name was Don POMPEIO TORBELLINO, and whose martial mien bespoke him a man who had seen hard service. TORBELLINO received us very graciously, and the moment he heard we had resolved to devote our lives to the service of the state, he exhibited as lively a joy as if we had been veterans crowned with victory. "My young friends," said he, "I am glad to find you in possession of these heroic sentiments: you appear to be Gentlemen of birth and family. To such noble characters as you are, the road of glory is principally opened. On you it is, that
"the

“the monarchy relies for its best support;
“you cannot begin too early the nobl
“profession of arms.”

THE Recruiting Officer having made this harangue, gave us ten pistoles each; made us sign our enrollment; and then told us we must be ready to depart in three days for BARCELONA, where two transports were lying to convey us, with other soldiers lately levied, to ITALY. So far were we from regretting our enrollment, that we congratulated each other on the measure; and when the day of our departure arrived we marched gaily towards BARCELONA, in company with nearly five hundred other young men all eager to support the honour of our King and Country; sleeping contentedly at night in barns and outhouses, on beds of straw, and eating heartily by day the rations of bread allowed for our support. The frugality of our meals did not interrupt the gaiety of our march; and, on our arrival at BARCELONA, finding the transports ready, we immediately embarked, threatening, in acclamations of joy, vengeance against the enemies we were sailing to conquer.

quer. The winds continued favourable the whole of the voyage, and conveyed us to the port of GENOA, where we did not long remain, for we were instantly disembarked, and marched into THE MILANESE to join the troops under the command of Count MONTEREY.

THE young Asturian and I were invested with the uniform of the regiment, and made extremely happy by being enrolled with each other in the same company.

You, no doubt, Gentlemen, continued Don JOACHIM, expect to hear me relate some gallant victory gained over our enemies; but I have no such account to give you; for besides serving under a General whose prudence degenerated into timidity; or, to express it better, who seemed to have received orders to avoid every opportunity of fighting, an accident happened which totally changed the nature of my situation. My companion, who was extremely fond of disputation, entered one day into an altercation with a soldier in the same regiment; the dispute terminated in a quarrel; and it was resolved to settle the difference,

two against two, at the point of the sword. The Asturian chose me for his second, and his adversary was attended by a young man of his acquaintance. We retired privately to the place appointed, where I endeavoured, by every effort in my power, to reconcile the parties; but, instead of pacifying their minds, I only irritated them more violently against each other, and we were obliged to begin the combat. A mortal thrust soon laid my friend dead at the feet of his adversary; a circumstance which raised my feelings to such a pitch of fury, that after having killed my antagonist, I had the gratification of revenging the Asturian's death, by running his victor through the heart. The combat was scarcely over before three soldiers of the same regiment, who had entertained some suspicion of our design, appeared on the field of battle with intent to prevent the mischief; but, perceiving they had come too late, they assisted me in burying the dead in a large hole which we found in the corner of an adjoining meadow, and returned with me to the camp as if nothing extraordinary had happened.

THIS.

THIS atchievement, however, was soon rumoured through the army; and reaching the ear of the Colonel of my regiment, he expressed a great desire to see me. Presenting myself before him in a firm but respectful manner, he appeared struck by my person and address. "Young man," said he, "your appearance, and the care you take to conceal yourself, betrays your birth. Answer me sincerely. Are you not of noble extraction? Do not imagine that I mean to reproach you for having enlisted into the army. The condition of a common soldier cannot dishonour you, even if you are descended from the most illustrious family in SPAIN. Speak with confidence. From whence do you come, and who are your relations?"

Not feeling myself bound to create any mystery respecting my origin, I revealed my story with frankness and fidelity; and the Colonel, who had listened to my tale with anxious attention, exclaimed, "I rejoice extremely, in having discovered, your character through its present disguise; I feel myself interested in your fortunes,

“fortunes, and will take you under my
“protection.”—I was about to express my
gratitude, but he interrupted me. “Yes,”
continued he; “you may rely on being ad-
“vanced the first vacancy.”

THE Colonel being related to the illustrious house of PONCE DE LEON, was of course a man of the first distinction; and, congratulating myself on having gained so powerful a patron, I waited in silent expectation of being promoted from the condition of a common Soldier to the rank of a Subaltern Officer.

THE loss of my Asturian friend was soon supplied by another, whose agreeable talents, and particularly his great skill on the guitar, had gained my attention and esteem. This instrument he touched with such exquisite taste and happy execution, that he quite charmed all who heard him, especially when he accompanied it with his melodious voice. His merit acquired him, throughout the whole army, the name of *the new Orpheus*. We attached ourselves closely to each other, and were almost continually together; and, as he perceived that my ear was good, and
my

my voice improvable, he instructed me so industriously in the science of music, and in the art of playing the guittar, that at the end of six months I became so great a proficient, that I began to acquire the attention of the soldiers, and to partake of the applauses they bestowed upon my master.

THE Count de MONTEREY, our General, who I have already noticed, was not prodigal of our blood, having continued inactive for ten months, received orders to send fifteen hundred of his troops back to SPAIN to strengthen the army which was assembled at ARRAGÓN, under the command of the MARQUIS DE LOS-VELOS, for the purpose of preventing an expected insurrection in CATALONIA; and I had the happiness to be one of those who were drafted for this expedition. We arrived at ROUSILLON, and joined, near TORTOSA, the Spanish army, which consisted of fifteen thousand men.

CATALONIA was already in a state of insurrection; but the MARQUIS de LOS-VELOS attacking, with great violence a large body of the insurgents who had hoped
success

Success from their advantageous position, put them to flight; and, penetrating with rapidity into the country, he determined to take CAMBRIEL, a small town which the Catalans had hastily fortified, as a depot for their arms and ammunition. The besieged resisted the summons to surrender in such firm and decisive terms, that we were obliged to open the siege in regular form. Erecting a strong battery of cannon, we thundered during five days and nights against the walls; but, notwithstanding the demolition we occasioned, the rebels obstinately refused to surrender. The principal inhabitants, however, at length persuaded them to submit, which they did, but so incautiously, as not to make any terms of capitulation: A negligence of which we took a cruel and inhuman advantage, by entering the town with fury, and carrying every thing before us with fire and sword. The charms even of beauty, the infirmities of old age, the smiles of innocence, or the weakness of infancy, were alike incapable of exciting in our breasts the slightest emotions of pity. But our senseless fury, not less

less fatal to the besiegers than to the besieged; for the inhabitants, irritated by our barbarity, and judging that they had no hope of quarter, flew to arms in the agonies of despair, and determined to sell their lives dearly to unfeeling foes, who seemed so thirsty after their blood and treasures.

My heart must have been torn by this afflicting scene if the necessity I was under of defending myself had not concealed its horror from my observation. Fighting by the side of my Colonel, his example animated my fury, and urged my arm to deal around its deadly blows with as little remorse as the rest. Covered with wounds, I at length received, while I was advancing in this bloody conflict, a severe blow on my head which brought me to the ground, where I lay among the dying and the dead, until the besiegers, having glutted their vengeance by the destruction of every inhabitant, made the air re-echo to their acclamations of *long live the King*; when raising my head, wounded as I was, and weltering in my blood, I joined in the chorus, by crying

in feeble and expiring accents, *long--live
--the--King.*

A FEW hours after the combat had closed, the wounded were separated from the dead, and sent to SALSONA, whose inhabitants not being connected with the insurgents of BARCELONA, opened to us the doors of their hospitals. I had the good fortune to be placed under the care of a skilful surgeon, who soon effected my recovery; and the moment I found myself sufficiently strong I returned to the camp.

So prompt a disposition to range myself under our victorious standard, continued Don JOACHIM, will, perhaps, make you imagine that I burned with impatience to perform some brilliant action in order to advance myself in the service; but if you so imagine you will be much deceived. The horrid impression which the siege of CAMBRIEL had left upon my mind, instead of increasing my inclination for war, implanted I assure you, a rooted hatred against it in my mind, and I determined to apply for my discharge.

THE

THE Colonel, having seen me fight with a courage which excited his admiration, was greatly surprized at my request, and endeavoured, by every means in his power, to dissipate the terror which had struck my mind. "My young friend," said he, "you should attribute these weak feelings to your want of experience; for after serving two or three campaigns you will not only behold the bloodiest battles with calm indifference, but even feel a delight in carnage. Do not quit me, and I will promise you the first pair of colours which becomes vacant in the regiment."

"Sir," replied I, "you have too much kindness for me: confer this honourable employment on some Cavalier more capable than I am of accommodating himself to the horrors of war, and suffer me to return to my native province to pass the remainder of my life in peace and tranquillity with my family."

"I will grant you your discharge," replied the Colonel, "for I should be sorry to keep a soldier against his inclination. The King is too generous to re-

“quire a service founded on restraint. Go ;
“you have my permission to quit the service.”

HAVING in this manner obtained my discharge, I retired towards the frontiers of ARRAGON, not without a fear of meeting, before I should arrive there, some straggling party of the insurgents, who, seeing me in the dress of a Spanish Soldier, would not fail to make me feel their vengeance; but I happily passed undiscovered through EBZA, and reached the village of CALANDA, where I stopped two days to repose, and on the third renewed my journey by the road which leads to CALATAYUD; but, unfortunately missing my way, on the approach of evening, in a place where no human habitation was to be found, I was obliged to pass the night in the open air.

THIS situation, indeed, was not extremely painful to a man who had so frequently been stationed on the night picquet guard; and extending myself on the grass, near a sheltering bush, in a frame and temper of mind not very favourable to sleep, I endeavoured to beguile the tedious hours with a song; but while I was warbling my air, the

found

found of a guitar, which seemed to accompany my voice, struck my ear. To listen with more attention I remained for some time silent, but not hearing any sound, I concluded my ear had been deceived, and began to sing the same air again, when, to my utter astonishment, the same instrument seemed again to accompany my voice. Rising from the ground with great precipitation at this mystery, and, embarrassed as I was, apostrophising the harmonious spirit, I exclaimed, with transport, "It must be my comrade, the *new Orpheus*, or the Devil."

"I AM not the Devil," said a person rising from the ground, on the other side of the bush; and, running towards me with open arms, "I am your friend, who returns thanks to Heaven for having found his favourite pupil. By what accident is it that we thus meet? I thought that you were dead, or courting death in the service of the King of Spain."

GIVING a brief and candid account to my fellow soldier of my dislike of, and dismissal from, the army, it induced him to open his mind to me with equal candour;

and he confessed, that he had taken advantage of the tumult of the siege to desert from the army and to seek any means of support, however precarious, rather than continue to live by the trade of war. "I parted with my uniform," added he, "at BALVASTRO, to avoid the appearance of being a deserter; and I have since travelled very agreeably through many parts of SPAIN."

"THAT surprises me," replied I; "for it seems to me, that in order to travel agreeably, it is necessary to be well supplied with money, which I cannot conceive to be your case."

"THIS is the way," said he, "in which the world judges erroneously of men. Know then, that my guitar is my great resource. I play from village to village, and never close my concert without putting some handsome presents of money into my pocket. The ground is not generally my place of rest I assure you; and it was entirely my own fault that it is so now. Indulging myself too long to day after my dinner, I was surprized on my journey

"journey by the approach of night, and
 "thought it more advisable to rest here,
 "than to travel any farther in the dark. I
 "do not, however, lament the accident,
 "since it has thus procured the pleasure of
 "seeing you again; and, if you still retain
 "your disposition to ramble through the
 "various provinces of SPAIN, you may
 "now conveniently indulge it by bearing
 "me company. You already play on the
 "guitar excellently well; a few more
 "lessons will render you equal to myself;
 "and you may safely rely on my assurances,
 "that the profits of our concerts will be
 "more than sufficient to defray all our tra-
 "velling expences."

I CONFESS, Gentlemen, continued young
 RODILLAS, that I permitted myself to be
 led away by the music of my friend. On
 the ensuing morning, at the dawn of day, we
 quitted our lodgings, without being under
 any obligation to reckon with our host, and
 proceeded to CALATAYUD, where my com-
 panion purchased an excellent lute, and fur-
 nished me also with another suit of cloaths,
 which I exchanged for my soldier's uniform,

the less to endanger the safety of my old comrade, who, as I was no deserter, had much more to risque on this account than myself. Having taken these precautions, we repaired to the best inn in the town, and dined as men generally do who have neither eaten or drank for four-and-twenty hours.

THE hostess, a lively brisk young widow, whose husband, an old man, had died about a year before, and whom she seemed to have entirely forgot, entered the room, just as we had satisfied our famished appetites, and asked us, with hospitable civility, whether the ragoued fillet of veal, and the shoulder of mutton we had eaten, had pleased us.

“EXTREMELY well,” replied my comrade very boldly, “and the wine is excellent.”

“As for the wine,” said the widow, “I am sure it is the best batch in *La Mancha*; and I may venture to say, that even the King has not a bottle in his cellar more delicately flavoured.”

“I do not doubt it,” replied my companion with an air of raillery; “and I am
“much

"much pleased with the good fortune which
 "directed our steps to so comfortable an
 "inn, where I shall willingly stay a long
 "time if the inhabitants of the place have
 "taste enough to admire our talents."

"TALENTS!" replied the young widow;
 "and pray what are your talents, Gentle-
 "men?"

"WE are two musicians," replied he;
 "we sing tolerably well; play still better on
 "our guitars; travel from town to town to
 "shew our parts; and live by these means in
 "ease and plenty; but," continued he, "as
 "you are not obliged to take our words,
 "we must give you a specimen of our
 "merit."

WE accordingly took out our guitars;
 tuned them to each other; and played and
 sung for some time alternately. We had
 no occasion, on the conclusion of our per-
 formance, to ask the widow whether she
 was well pleased with us.

"BY ST. CECILIA," cried she, "this is
 "ravishing. I no longer doubt whether
 "you get any thing by the use of your ta-
 "lents; you ought to get millions. The

"village of CALATAYUD will I am sure
"amply reward your merit; for its inha-
"bitants are excessively fond of novelties.
"Certain Savoyards occasionally visit us,
"and these curious drolls return to their
"mountains loaded with *maravadies*."

"MADAM," interrupted my companion
hastily; "*silver* was coined for such
"sort of gentry who are only enabled to
"please the vulgar ear; but our talents are
"suited only to the noble and discerning few:
"we never exhibit except in the company
"of THE GREAT, and are never offered less
"than *gold*."

IMPATIENT to discover whether we had
any hope of a plentiful harvest at CALA-
TAYUD, we went in the evening to the
house of one of the principal inhabitants,
and announced ourselves as two itinerant
musicians who played with great excellency
on the guitar. A large society of friends
happening to be assembled at the house, and
every body expressing a lively curiosity to
hear us play, we were accordingly intro-
duced to the company, to whom we ad-
dressed

dressed ourselves in such a way as to convince them we were not vagrants.

"GENTLEMEN," said the master of the house, "be pleased to exhibit a specimen of your art; but it is right to apprise you that you are in the presence of many exquisite masters of music."

"So much the better," cried I, "it is the very thing we wish;" and immediately taking my guitar I played an air which I accompanied with my voice, and instantly received the unanimous applause of the whole assembly; some praising the exquisite softness of my tones, and others the wonderful rapidity with which I touched the strings. "Gentlemen and Ladies," said I, "if you are pleased with my performance, you will be in raptures with that of my companion. You have yet only heard the scholar; listen now to the master."

And, in truth, the *New Orpheus* no sooner touched his instrument than he was interrupted by a general acclamation of applause. He indeed surpassed himself upon this occasion, and fully justified the name he had received. Having entertained the

company for at least three hours, we placed the guitars on our shoulders as a token of intention to depart, when the master of the house, amidst reiterated praises, presented us, in testimony of the pleasure we had afforded him, with a purse of gold, the contents of which we immediately examined on our return to the inn, and were very agreeably surprized to find it contained twenty pistoles.

"WELL, my friend," said my comrade; "what do you think of our success? Do you regret having acceded to my proposal? You must not, indeed, expect so munificent a reward on every occasion. We should become rich too soon. We may, however, fairly flatter ourselves, that money will not be wanting to defray the expences of our expedition."

THE success of this essay determined us to stay two or three days at CALATAYUD, being fully persuaded that more fish would come to our net; and, in effect, the two ensuing days so well warranted our conjecture by the compensations we received from a few opulent families, that we carried from

CALA-

CALATAYUD more money than was necessary for the purchase of mules if we had chosen to ride; but, exclusively of the consideration that an equipage might be troublesome, we were much better pleased, as our legs were not more than fifteen years of age, to walk on foot, than to be conveyed by any other means. We accordingly set out, and travelled on foot, by short stages, stopping at every town to offer our services to the principal inhabitants, and oftentimes even in the villages to please the rich farmers, who, the one as well as the other, were charmed with our voices and instruments; and if they did not bestow *doubloons* upon us, we at least eased them of *ecus*; so that receiving twenty times more than we disbursed at the inns, our treasures accumulated every day.

I SHALL pass over in silence, continued Don JOACHIM, the towns, the hamlets, and the boroughs, in which we tried our skill, to bring you immediately to the principal theatre of our exploits.

STRANGERS who distinguish themselves by any useful or agreeable talent are particularly

cularly honoured in the metropolis of ANDALUSIA, and the moment it was circulated through the city that two celebrated performers on the guitar were arrived, we were overwhelmed with visitors, who, anxious to learn whether fame was right or wrong in boasting of our merits, came to us with entreaties to satisfy the curiosity they felt to hear us perform; and more especially those Gentlemen who piqued themselves on playing the instrument with skill. Both descriptions of persons appeared equally delighted with our performances, which they acknowledged was such as appeared to refine the taste. Their admiration was inexhaustible. Many of them, in order to acquire our stile of performing, became our pupils, and paid us well for the lessons they received.

Two months had already elapsed since our arrival at SAVILLE, where we had accumulated vast sums of money, when discord shook its torch over our heads. What causes of displeasure I afforded to my comrade I cannot conceive; but I began to perceive faults in his character which I had

not

not before observed. Until this period we had always behaved to each other with sufficient complaisance; but even mutual civility, were now at an end. Each was anxious to support his own opinions; and our differences, at first only contentions, ended at length in angry quarrels.

"COMRADE," said I to the deserter; "nature I perceive has not formed us to live together; let us, however, part good friends."

"I was going to make you the same proposal," interrupted he with precipitation, "but you prevented me; let us divide the produce of our partnership, which now consists of four hundred pistoles, and each of us pursue what pleases him best."

TAKING him at his word, we divided our profits, and bid each other an eternal adieu.

I CONGRATULATED myself on being released from such bad company, which, in reality, had never been pleasing to me. I had indeed frequently reproached myself for forming a connection with a deserter, and following a course of life so unworthy
of

of my birth; but I was always satisfied by this self-condemnation, and could never acquire resolution to abandon such a companion.

THE separation, however, having now taken place by mutual agreement, my mind speculated upon the subject of my future pursuits; and, after various reflections, I resolved to return to BURGOS to the company of a brother, who not knowing what was become of me, I fancied must have felt great trouble on my account. To accomplish this with greater expedition, I determined, as BURGOS lies at a great distance by land from SEVILLE, to travel by sea if I could find any vessel ready to sail for the Coast of BISCAY; and, learning that one would depart for ST. ANDERÓ early on the ensuing morning, I failed not to seize an opportunity so extremely favourable; ST. ANDERÓ not being more than twenty leagues from BURGOS. Embarking accordingly with about a dozen other passengers who were returning to BISCAY and NAVARRE, we set sail, and, having doubled Cape ST. VINCENTS, expected to make a
10 passage

passage not only short, but pleasant; when a large vessel from BARBARY immediately fell in with us and summoned us to surrender without resistance, threatening to sink us to the bottom in case we refused, which we thought it proper to prevent by striking our colours, and quietly submitting to be bound in chains. These marine robbers, as you will easily imagine, did not forget to search us individually from head to foot; and it was no small satisfaction to the pirate to find in my pocket a purse of one hundred doubloons. Joy sparkled in his eyes; and concluding from this circumstance that I was a person for whom he was likely to procure a large ransom, he affected to distinguish me from my unfortunate companions, whose pockets he had not found so richly furnished. He addressed his discourse particularly to me; and I had the satisfaction to find, that the manner in which I answered him prepossessed him greatly in my favour. Observing that I had a guitar by my side, he asked me, whether I played the instrument. "Sir," replied I, "you

"you shall judge for yourself, if you please."

"WELL, slave," said he, "gratify my curiosity. Exhibit, exhibit.—" Accordingly, tuning my guitar, I played and sung to him with great gaiety in spite of the heaviness of my heart.

THE corsair appeared extremely well satisfied with my performance. "Captive," said he, "thank Heaven for the talents you possess. Your condition will not be the worse for them. On our arrival at ALGIERS I shall give you an employment in my family."

THIS ferocious robber, who had assumed the turban and taken the name of BEGLIN, was in fact a Spanish renegado from the Province of NAVARRE. He had formerly commanded a privateer from ST. SEBASTIAN, and being discontented with the Spanish service, had attached himself to that of the Republic of ALGIERS.

THE nature of the employment which he designed to bestow on me I was quite at a loss to conjecture; but he made it known to me immediately on our arrival. "Captive," said

said he, "you have the happiness to please me; and, as a mark of my approbation, I shall place my son TARGUT, who is now entering into his sixteenth year, under your care; teach him the Castilian tongue; learn him at the same time to sing and to play on the guitar: this is what I expect from you, and when you have accomplished these three points, be assured that my gratitude will exceed your expectation."

WHILE I assured PEGLIN that I felt myself extremely honoured by his commands, and that I would spare no endeavours on my part to accomplish his desires, the Renegado called his son into his presence, and introduced him to me. I was by no means displeased with the person and manner of the youthful Algerine; and, being informed that he spoke a little Spanish, I addressed him in that language, and I was convinced by his answer that he possessed both a liberal spirit and a good understanding. But although I was obliged to pass two or three hours every morning with him in his apartments, and as many every afternoon, TAR-

GUT.

but made but a slow and unpromising progress in his studies. As my enfranchisement, however, depended on my success, I did not suffer my mind to despair. On the contrary, I exerted myself to such a degree, that by inculcating the same lesson frequently on his mind, I at length rendered my instructions effectual. I taught him to sing at sight, and to play tolerably well on the guitar; but this was the work of four long years, and still I could not make him a proficient. Happily his father, who was not an extraordinary connoisseur, conceiving him to be a perfect musician, congratulated me every day on my success, but without ever mentioning my promised liberty. My days passed unprofitably away in painful captivity; and would, I fear, have continued so to do for a much longer period, if an event had not happened in the family of the corsair, a description of which you cannot listen to without pleasure.

A YOUNG female, named **ZEBINABIA**, whom **PEGLIN** had captured in one of his enterprizes, lived at this time in his house,

and had become the idol of his heart. Confining her in a remote apartment, which no one was permitted to enter but himself, he passed whole days with this unfortunate captive in endeavouring to render her sensible of his love. At the period of which I am now speaking, ZEINABIA became suddenly ill, and all the ablest physicians of the country, who were immediately summoned to her assistance, after having exhausted their skill in vain endeavours to afford her relief, at length pronounced her disorder to be *a consumption* of such a kind, as must inevitably be fatal to her life.

THE distracted lover requested the physicians to describe to him the nature of this extraordinary complaint. "It is a complaint," replied the most celebrated of these sons of Hypocrates, "occasioned by a corrosive juice, which, mingling with the mass of the blood, dries up insensibly all the vital parts of the body until it causes death. A malady," added he, "extremely common in ENGLAND, where many of both sexes yearly die of it; and it seems peculiar to that Island; for I do not

"not remember ever to have heard of a
"consumption either in SPAIN or AFRICA."

"MY good doctors," replied the fond
Barbarian, alarmed by this discourse, "is
"there no remedy for this dangerous ma-
"lady?"

"THE faculty here know of none,"
replied they; "and death is in general the
"patient's sole relief."

THE physicians, on saying this, retired,
abandoning ZEYNABIA to Providence, and
leaving PEGLIN in a state of painful con-
sternation.

TOUCHED by the excess of grief which
he exhibited on this occasion, I approached
him respectfully. "Master," said I, "the
"torments you feel pierce the heart of
"your slave with sorrow; and as the phy-
"cians, who ought to know the remedy
"for every disorder, have none for that
"which afflicts ZEYNABIA, permit me to
"try my skill for her relief. Her disorder
"appears to me to be nothing more than me-
"lancholy, which may be removed by ex-
"citing some emotion, so as to cause a dil-
"tation of the heart. To produce this effect,

"suffer

“suffer me to employ a means which has just
“occurred to my mind. Let me be permitted
“to visit ZEINABIA’S apartment, and try
“whether by the highest melodies of my
“guitar I cannot produce some sudden and
“salutary revolution in her mind.”

“You have my permission,” replied the
corsair, “to try this expedient; but, alas!
“I entertain no great hopes of its success:
“it can, however, do no harm; and where
“no particular remedies are known it is
“right to try experiments.”

PREPARING accordingly to perform the
character of physician of a new kind, I
fetch’d my guitar, and followed the cor-
sair into the room where ZEINABIA was
confined. “Captive,” said he to me,
pointing to the Lady who lay reclined on a
superb sofa of Chinese taffeta; “look at-
“tentively on that charming woman; and
“tell me if there are any torments equal to
“these I must feel, if death should snatch
“her from my arms.”

“Sir,” replied I, “you would indeed
“have reason to be disconsolate; but Hea-
“ven, that watches over and preserves the
“most

"most beautiful of its works, will not deprive ZEINABIA of life at the very commencement of her happiest days." Never, in truth, did my eyes behold an object more lovely than the face of this young captive.

PEGLIN, who was still more impatient even than myself to see the effect of my skill, immediately made a sign to me to begin; and instantly sounding my voice, I sung a tender air, which I accompanied occasionally with the softest sounds of the guitar. Observing, however, that this species of music rather increased than diminished the languor of my patient, I suddenly changed the music to a gay, lively, and fantastic strain; and, as to affect the feelings of others, it is necessary to appear affected ourselves, I accompanied the song with the most extravagant gestures and ridiculous grimaces. Scarcely had I concluded the first verse, before ZEINABIA suddenly burst into a violent fit of laughter. PEGLIN perceiving the effect I had unexpectedly produced, exhibited transports of the most extravagant joy, until the patient flom discovered,

discovered, by the violence of her laughter, symptoms of an hystERIC kind, when, apprehensive that the sudden transition she had experienced had affected her senses, his countenance suddenly assumed the appearance of dismay and terror. I must confess that I scarcely knew what to think of her situation myself. But our fears were soon happily removed by her ceasing to laugh, and addressing her discourse to PEGLIN in the following terms :

“ Good Sir,” said she, “ no longer be
“ alarmed for the situation of my health ;
“ this captive will afford me relief. My melancholy mind yields itself to the superior
“ power of his delightful art. I feel myself
“ quite another being than I was a moment
“ ago. I cannot return my thanks too
“ warmly to this great Physician, who
“ seems to have discerned better than any
“ of the others the nature of my complaint.
“ I hope you will, at my earnest request,
“ grant him his liberty.”

“ OH ZEINABIA !” replied the Pirate,
“ that is the smallest price he has to expect
“ from my gratitude. Leave to me the

“care of discharging the debt you owe to
“him, and be assured I shall reward him
“well for having saved the life of her I
“love.”

THE pirate certainly was not ungrateful.

“CHRISTIAN,” said he to me on the
same day, “great as the sum may be which
“I might expect for the ransom of such a
“captive, it would not be rewarding you
“sufficiently for the services you have ren-
“dered to an amiable mistress and a de-
“serving son, if I were merely to restore you
“to liberty and your country. There,”
added he in presenting me a purse; “re-
“ceive with your liberty this purse; it is
“the same I took from you on the day
“you fell into my hands. You shall also
“immediately again behold the shores of
“SPAIN; and it affords me some pleasure
“to reflect, that you will not have, on re-
“joining your friends, a history extremely
“lamentable to relate to them of your
“slavery at ALGIERS.”

IF I had only brought away from AL-
GIERS my person and my purse I should have
been well satisfied with my fate; but I was
not

not suffered to leave the country without still greater satisfaction. On the ensuing day ZEINABIA's favourite slave contrived to speak with me when I was quite alone, and putting a small casket into my hands, "Take this casket, young Castilian," said she: "my mistress, apprehensive that our master may not have rewarded you equal to your merits, begs you will accept this present sent from her; with this single recommendation, that you will carefully conceal from whence it came."

CONCLUDING that the beautiful captive had presented me with this casket unknown to PEGLIN, and apprehending that if he should discover it previous to my departure the face of my affairs might assume an inauspicious appearance, the recommendation with which it was accompanied gave me great uneasiness. Happily, however, this dangerous secret remained concealed; for I was immediately afterwards put on board a swift sailing vessel, in which I shortly reached the STREIGHTS and arrived at TARIFFA.

No sooner did my feet touch the welcome shore than, like another PANDORA, I was impatient to inspect my unknown treasures; and chusing the first convenient place for gratifying my curiosity, I opened the casket, and found in it ten precious stones of different kinds, which appeared to me, although I was altogether ignorant of their qualities, so full of lustre, that I concluded they were of great value.

FEAR, however, immediately interposed, and diminished the joy I felt in the contemplation of this valuable property. "By what route," said I, "shall I safely reach BURGOS: a passage by sea to St. ANDERO exposes me to the dangers of being captured by some other pirate; and if I trust myself with the muleteers, and these dangerous fellows should suspect that I am rich, I shall be a ruined man."

To extricate myself from the embarrassment in which my treasures placed me, I resolved to follow the suggestion of the moment, and to take the road to BURGOS in the miserable garb I now wear, as the
most

most likely means of deceiving robbers. Accordingly, hiding my riches with all possible care, I pursued my journey towards SEVILLE in the character of a poor captive who had escaped from BARBARY after a slavery of five years. To avoid all suspicion, at the several inns I came to at night, I eat an humble supper of bread and cheese, and requested the charitable permission to sleep on straw: I even begged sometimes on the highways, whenever I met those whose ill looks seemed to threaten the safety of my diamonds. Not to fatigue your attention any longer, Gentlemen, continued Don JOACHIM, I have only to add, that in travelling in this artful manner I have arrived here without meeting with any accident.

THIS is the whole of my history. You feel, I have no doubt, some curiosity to see the casket which ZEINABIA presented to me; and I will now shew it you.

HE accordingly drew a small casket from the bottom of a private pocket, and, opening it, displayed to us three diamonds, two turquoises, two rubies, and three emeralds,

which we examined one by one, in great admiration of their size and lustre.

"How much," said FERRARI, "do you think they are worth?"

"DON MATHIAS DE GRAJAL can inform us," replied Don SEBASTIAN; "for he knows the value of these articles as well as any jeweller."

GRAJAL, after examining them very attentively, estimated their value altogether at ten thousand ducats.

CONGRATULATING Don JOACHIM on his rich prize, we gave him the appellation of THE HAPPY SLAVE, and rallied him not a little on his motive for quitting the army in CATALONIA, and for travelling with the deserter as an itinerant Musician.

"INDEED, my dear brother," said Don SEBASTIAN, "we cannot reconcile the valour you exhibited at the siege of CAMBRIEL with the weak or rather unworthy fears which induced you to quit the service."

"BROTHER," replied Don JOACHIM, "impute it to Nature, that forms us in
"whatever

"whatever mould best pleases her fancy.
"Besides, I have already suffered as much
"as the occasion requires, and it is that
"kind of service which any other man
"is just as well able to perform as my-
"self."

CHAPTER THE FORTY-SEVENTH.

The News which VANILLO received, and the Cause of his quitting the Chateau of FERRARI to return to MADRID. The Situation in which he found DALFA and BERNARDINA, and the new Misfortune he experienced.

THE pleasures which accompanied this friendly society were not diminished by the arrival of Don JOACHIM, but considerably increased by his elegant manners and lively conversation.

A PERIOD of four months had nearly elapsed in the enjoyment of those innocent amusements which rural life affords, when a rumour prevailed, that the Duke of OSSUNA, who had recently returned from his Government of NAPLES, had been arrested by the King's command, and confined in the Castle of ALMEDA.

LITTLE

LITTLE occasion as I had to be interested in this event, for reasons already related, I could not help feeling it with great sensibility. The Duke of OSSUNA was a character that I really loved; his faults were amply overbalanced by many good qualities; and I had long forgotten all the mortifications he had caused me to feel. So sensibly, indeed, did his misfortune affect me, that I requested FERRARI would permit me to visit MADRID, that I might learn, by my own enquiries, the real situation of this illustrious Statesman; and FERRARI acceded to my proposal on condition that I would return when my curiosity was satisfied.

ENGAGING accordingly with a muleteer at BURGOS, I returned to MADRID; but, impatient as I was to learn the situation of the Duke's affairs, my first object was to enquire about my own; and immediately on my arrival I visited my fair associates, who received me with friendly reproaches for neglecting to inform them of my welfare during my absence.

"How negligent!" exclaimed Signiora DALFA. "You did not discover more
"unconcern even when you had no share in
"our partnership. The business, however,"
continued she, "is not unsuccessful; and
"my niece and I, by the manner in which
"we manage it, increase its profits daily.
"Two hundred pistoles are already in our
"coffers."

"How!" exclaimed I, "two hundred
"pistoles! What a vast quantity of faded
"beauty must you have restored to amass so
"considerable a sum!"

"Oh! as for that," replied BERNARDINA, laughingly, "I will answer you. A
"great number of terrible faces have in-
"deed passed through our hands."

AFTER conversing for some time with
these amiable and useful friends, I rose to
take my leave, when Signiora DALFA
detained me, saying she had inclosed
the third part of the contents of the
coffer, in a bag, and laid it by for my
use, and which she immediately delivered
to me, assuring me that I should always
have a faithful account of the monies
which

which accumulated from time to time in the partnership funds.

CHARMED with the good management of my fair friends, I paid them a thousand compliments, particularly on their integrity, which I could not enough admire; although it was perhaps much less admirable than I imagined, as I had no certainty that what I received was in fact only a third part of the joint funds our coffer contained. It would, however, have been extremely wrong to have been discontented; for considering the women had it in their power to use me much worse, it was, I think, using me with wonderful generosity.

ON quitting the Ladies, I went directly to ANDRESILLO's Hotel, where I had kept an apartment, and secured my bag of pistoles in my portmanteau. From thence I proceeded to the mansion of the Duke of OSSUNA, in hope of meeting in its environs some domestic of my acquaintance who might inform me of his situation; and my expectation was not deceived; for just as I approached the door, I observed a tall

man coming out, whom I recollected in SICILY a little Page.

POLITELY addressing him, "Signior CYLINDRO," said I, "I fancy you do not recollect me?"

"PARDON me," replied he, "you are Signior VANILLO GONZALES. I recollect you again perfectly well, although you are in some degree altered."

"AND I also knew you again, my friend," replied I, "although you have advanced at least three feet in height since I last saw you. Will you do me the favour to tell me the news concerning my old master, who I still love as well as when I was in his service."

"WE are not now," replied CYLINDRO, "in a proper place to speak of the affairs of a Nobleman so dear to us both. Come with me to the first *Cabaret*, and while we drink a bottle of *Lucenna* I will unfold to you the embarrassment into which the too open and unsuspecting disposition of the Duke has plunged him."

UNWILLING to permit an occasion so favourable to my views to escape, we entered
an

an hotel, where CYLINDRO, having filled and drank, began in these terms :

“ WERE you at MADRID when the Duke made his public entry ? ”

“ No,” replied I ; “ I was at the Chateau of a Gentleman, a friend of mine, who resides near BURGOS, where I enjoyed the pleasures of a very agreeable society, and took no part whatever in the transactions of the Court. I was even ignorant that his Excellency had returned from the Government of NAPLES ; and the first account I received of him, only two days ago, was that of his imprisonment.”

“ You would have seen,” replied CYLINDRO, “ the most superb entry that any Viceroy ever made. No Governor from NEW SPAIN ever made so ostentatious and, between ourselves, so imprudent an exhibition. Every rational Spaniard, therefore, that beheld the scene condemned, while they admired its splendor. The Duke’s enemies, who are both numerous and powerful, did not fail to consider his pompous retinue, the magnificent

“ficent presents he made to the Royal
“family, and the riches he brought from
“ITALY, as proofs of criminality ; observ-
“ing that his disinterestedness and the fide-
“lity of his administration might be easily
“estimated from these circumstances. But
“it produced consequences still more un-
“fortunate,” continued the Page. “The
“King, without doubt, has suffered his
“mind to be tainted with strong prejudices
“against the Duke, since, notwithstanding
“the favourable reception he gave him on
“his arrival, he has sent him a prisoner to the
“Castle of ALMEDA. The friends and par-
“tizans of the GIRON family seem to flatter
“themselves that it is only a temporary
“storm, which will soon pass away. They
“insist that a Viceroy who has rendered such
“important services to the nation, and per-
“formed so many laudable actions in
“SICILY, where he is still adored, must
“in consequence soon triumph over all his
“enemies, and be restored with honour to
“the Government of NAPLES. I wish it
“may be so, but I do not believe it will
“ever happen; for I tremble at his situa-
“tion

“tion when I reflect, that not only the
“Count de BENEVENTO and Don BALTHA-
“ZAR DE ZUNIGA, but the Duke of OLI-
“VAREZ, the three most powerful men at
“Court, particularly the two last, who now
“divide between them the Government of
“the Monarchy, are his avowed enemies.
“Adversaries so extremely formidable,
“whose power has already ruined the Duke
“of LERMA and his son, will, I fear, also
“overwhelm my master.”

“OH no!” exclaimed I to CYLINDRO;
“let us hope that it is impossible for them
“to induce his Majesty to repay with the
“blackest ingratitude the services of a
“man, who, beyond contradiction, con-
“fers the highest honour on the Spanish
“nation.”

“I DOUBT it,” replied the Page; “not-
“withstanding the many enterprizes by
“which he has increased the lustre of the
“Crown, and which plead so eloquently
“in his favour, they will say he is not in-
“nocent. Instead of applauding his merit,
“they will slander him with the worst
“of crimes. I perceive but too clearly
“the

“ the fate which his enemies are preparing
“ for him. Merely to accomplish his fall
“ will not content them. In the mean
“ time they have committed him to close
“ and rigorous imprisonment. I cannot
“ think of his situation without feeling the
“ tenderest concern. Enclosed within the
“ walls of ALMEDA, his only attendants are
“ two of his domestics, who are not per-
“ mitted to go without the walls; and all his
“ company, the Governor of the prison with
“ six archers of the guard. The Governor
“ also is his mortal enemy. Good God !
“ is this the way to treat a Viceroy, whose
“ equal in goodness and integrity was
“ never known ?”

CYLINDRO was much affected, and burst into tears, and I could not avoid following his example.

I THEN enquired after THOMAS and QUIVILLO.

“ As for THOMAS,” replied CYLINDRO,
“ the gout has fastened him to his arm-chair
“ at home; but your good friend QUIVILLO,
“ still enjoys admirable health. Like me,
“ he waits to see the end of this business,
“ in

"in order to regulate his conduct accordingly."

HAVING had this conversation, the Page and I quitted each other; he to execute a commission for the Duchess, and I to visit my friends THOMAS and QUIVILLO at the mansion of the Duke. I was first conducted to the apartment of QUIVILLO, who received me as graciously as a man so overcome with grief could do.

"SIR," said I, "upon the afflicting news of the Duke's adversity I have come from BURGOS to MADRID to assure you, that notwithstanding the reason which his Excellency has given me to complain of his conduct, there is no one feels his situation with more acute sensibility."

"OH! his Excellency no longer retains the sentiments he expressed to you," replied QUIVILLO; "he is sensible of the harshness of his conduct towards you, and I have frequently heard him lament the treatment you received."

"By this communication," replied I, "you render his misfortunes still more painful to my mind."

"I AM

“I AM glad to find,” said QUIVILLO, “that
“your affection for his Excellency is unim-
“paired; he will reward, sooner than you ima-
“gine, perhaps, the interest you take in his
“welfare; for it is thought that the princi-
“pal charges adduced against him will ap-
“pear to his Judges so many testimonies
“in his favour. They will perceive that his
“imputed crimes resolve themselves into ex-
“ploits equally glorious to himself and ad-
“vantagous to the State. In short, if his Ma-
“jesty bestows the least attention to the peti-
“tion which the Duchess has presented in
“favour of her husband, he will be per-
“suaded that envy, hatred, and malice,
“are the only motives from which the
“Viceroy, so worthy of his protection, has
“been degraded. Therefore, my friend
“VANILLO,” added he, “let us console
“ourselves with the pleasing hope that he
“will soon be released from prison, with
“honour to himself; confusion to his ene-
“mies; and advantage to his friends.”

DURING this conversation a Page entered the room, and informed QUIVILLO that the Duchess desired to speak with him. We accordingly

accordingly parted; he going to the Duchefs, and I toward the apartment of THOMAS, being unwilling to leave the house without visiting him. I found him reclined on a couch in his chamber, with a small table before him, upon which he was writing, although he had the gout in his hands as well as feet. He recollected me immediately, and appeared to feel some pleasure at seeing me again.

“My dear VANILLO,” said he, “I am
 “sorry I have not seen you before this
 “time, as I have it in my power to inform
 “you, that I have made your peace with
 “the Duke. He is no longer irritated
 “against you. Seizing every favourable
 “moment to conciliate his mind, I have
 “not only subdued his anger, but caused
 “him to feel a real regret for having punished
 “you too severely. I would have
 “informed you of my success, if I had
 “known where to find you. Had you
 “followed us to NAPLES, and presented
 “yourself to his Excellency, you would
 “certainly have regained his good opinion.
 “But,” continued THOMAS, “it is better
 “late

“late than never. When he is acquitted
“of the crimes with which his enemies
“have dared to accuse him, you may ex-
“pect to be restored to your former station,
“or rather to mine, which my increasing
“infirmities will no longer permit me to
“fill.”

THE old Valet almost convinced me by this discourse that I had done him an injury by supposing him to have been my secret enemy; and, in the penitence of my heart, I thanked him for the good will he had always expressed towards me. Returning soon after to my hotel, I considered myself as already fixed in the service of the Duke, who, I made no doubt, would soon be liberated and sent back to NAPLES, with new powers for the Government of that kingdom, where I promised myself many pleasures. But while I was thus anticipating the future prosperity of the Duke, the dangers of his present situation greatly increased. QUIVILLO, whom I saw on the ensuing day, informed me, that it had been suggested to the King, that the friends and adherents of the Duke of OSSUNA had resolved

resolved to force the prison of ALMEDA, and that orders had been thereupon issued, not only to double the number of guards, as well within as without the walls, but to prevent every person, whoever he may be, from approaching the gates. This unfounded alarm had been raised to furnish a pretence for seizing the persons of those who were attached to this unfortunate Nobleman. And in truth, all the disbanded Officers, together with the Gentlemen, whether Neapolitans or Sicilians, who were in the service of the Duke, were arrested and imprisoned. The Marquis de POBAR, Captain of the Archers, came even to the Duke's house and seized the faithful QUIVILLO.

As I happened to be present, the Marquis enquired of me, whether I belonged to the Duke; and I told him, without hesitation, that though I was not then, I had formerly been in his service.

"THEN," replied the Marquis, "you will be pleased to follow us: you will not make one too many in the State Prison."

INSTEAD

INSTEAD of feeling the least alarm on being surrounded by the Guards, I relied with courage upon my conscious innocence, and hastily entered the prison, more rejoiced than afflicted by an event which I hoped the Duke would in a short time be in a situation to remember with gratitude.

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-EIGHTH.

The Cause of VANILLO's being released after fifteen Days Confinement ; and the Reason of his being sent to the Castle of ALMEDA to keep the Duke of OSSUNA Company.

A MAN who has beheld the terrible dungeons of the HOLY OFFICE may look without alarm round the place in which I was now confined. It was a dark and spacious hall, called THE ROYAL CHAMBER, containing, for the comfortless accommodation of its inmates, six hard mattrasses and as many bolsters stuffed with straw. But the inconveniency of the lodgings were more than balanced by the excellency of the board ; for the Minister took good care, and perhaps for good reasons, that State Prisoners should not be starved to death. Indeed, if our beds had
been

been as pleasant as our board, we should have been too happy. Six objects of Ministerial vengeance, who had been arrested as it were, by *anticipation*, that is, for the offence they *would have* committed if *they had* attempted to release, or had entertained any intention of attempting to release, the Duke of OSSUNA from the Castle of ALMEDA, were now fellow-prisoners in this State-chamber; and when we recognized each other as the partizans of that illustrious Nobleman, the common cause by which we were united consoled our minds. The Warder also, who was a man of high spirit, and secretly attached to the Duke, afforded us the additional satisfaction of informing us of every step which the Minister was taking against him.

“GENTLEMEN,” said he, one day, “I have important news to tell you. This morning it was discussed in the Cabinet, whether the Duke should be prosecuted with extreme rigour, be set at liberty, or be confined for life. Various opinions were entertained. The enemies of his Excellency insisted that he ought to be
“proceeded

“ proceeded against for HIGH TREASON. His
“ friends contended, that however impru-
“ dent he had been upon some occasions,
“ his conduct upon many others had been
“ highly meritorious; that he had been
“ importantly serviceable to the Catholic
“ cause; that on a general view his merits
“ greatly overbalanced his demerits; and
“ that his Majesty, swayed more by the
“ suggestions of clemency than the demands
“ of political justice, ought to grant him
“ a pardon, and set him immediately at
“ liberty. But the voice of candour and
“ moderation was overpowered by the cla-
“ mours of faction. The alarmists contended
“ with great virulence, that the public had a
“ right to be satisfied of the guilt or in-
“ nocence of the accused, and therefore it
“ was necessary to bring him to trial. At
“ length, however, it was determined to
“ wait until the arrival of the expected docu-
“ ments from SICILY and NAPLES; the
“ respective Viceroys of these dependen-
“ cies having received orders from the
“ Court to enquire very minutely into the
“ conduct of the Duke during his admi-
VOL. II. O nistration;

“ nistraton, and to transmit to MADRID
“ the result of their enquiries.”

FONDLY as I hoped that these depositions would clearly establish the general good character of the illustrious prisoner, and that a man who had obtained so many signal victories over the enemies of his country, would find his judges prepossessed in his favour, the information which the Warder had given us raised many apprehensions in my mind, for having been an eye-witness of the Duke's conduct I was conscious it would be difficult, even for his most zealous friends, entirely to justify some parts of it.

THE expected papers soon afterwards arrived, and on the matter being again discussed in the Privy Council, they were referred to the inspection and consideration of DON GASPAR DE VALLEJO and DON FRANCIS ALARCAN, two Statesmen of high honour and approved integrity, from whose report we formed great hopes in the Duke's favour, which were considerably increased about ten days afterwards by a rumour that
the

the contents of the documents from SICILY, instead of condemning his conduct, re-founded his praise, and that the Nobility and Gentry there unanimously desired he might be again appointed to the Government of that Island. It appeared indeed that the depositions from NAPLES were not favourable to him; for they charged him with having committed many crimes; but these were reported by the Commissioners to be, in all the material points, totally vague and without foundation, and upon this enquiry he was adjudged innocent of the charges alledged against him.

BUT it was not thought prudent to set a man of his high and daring spirit at liberty immediately after such violent and unsupported measures had been taken against him, especially as he still possessed a great number of powerful friends who might, with his assistance, give great disturbance to the State. He was accordingly detained a prisoner in the Castle of ALMEDA; but to soften in some degree the severity of this detention, he was permitted to see his friends and relations, and allowed the privilege of being

waited on by his own domestics. The several persons also who had been arrested for their affectionate attachment to him were discharged.

I QUITTED very willingly the Royal apartment, and returned to the house of ANDRESILLO, where I found my portmanteau in the same condition I had left it; for my host was a man quite incapable of any thing dishonourable.

ANXIOUS to obtain some information respecting the fate of my friend QUIVILLO, I went immediately afterwards to the Duke's house, not doubting but that he also had been liberated, and I found him there in conversation with THOMAS, who expressed great satisfaction at seeing me, and told me, that he had an offer to make to me, of which he hoped I would accept. "You must know," continued he, "that yesterday my gout permitted me to visit the Castle of ALMEDA, where I saw the Duke, and I spoke to him in your favour. The circumstance of your being apprehended and imprisoned for having been formerly in his service was so ridiculous,

"culous, that he could not help laughing at it."

"Poor lad," said he, "I have been the cause of giving him a great deal of unnecessary pain."

"Your Excellency," said I, "should take him again under your protection. A servant of his description would amuse you in your confinement."

"I SHALL," replied the Duke, "most willingly restore him to my service, and if he will voluntarily submit to immure himself within the walls of this prison, I am sure his company and conversation would afford me great pleasure."

"Will submit, my Lord!" replied I; "Oh! do not injure him by doubting it. He will, I am certain, willingly resign his liberty until you recover yours."

"This is the proposal I have to make to you. Consider of it. Is your affection for the Duke sufficient to induce you to share his situation in the Castle of ALMEDA? You may easily believe that he will not remain there the remainder

“of his life. The eyes of his Majesty
“are at present, it is true, shut against his
“merits; but time will clear away the
“film of prejudice, and you will then find,
“that in keeping this illustrious captive
“company, you have done no injury to
“yourself.”

WHILE I protested that it would form the future pleasure of my life, not only to enter into the service of his Excellency, but to alleviate, by any means in my power, the vexations of captivity, the faithful old Valet interrupted me by observing, that such sentiments as these would render my company still more pleasing and consolatory to his Excellency, especially as he had been made acquainted that my present condition rendered the profits of servitude quite unnecessary.

MATTERS being thus settled between us, I went to my Hotel, and, packing up my necessaries, returned immediately to QURVILLO, who was waiting to conduct me in the Duke's coach to my new prison. On our arrival at the Castle the Guard at the gate

gate permitted us to enter without asking a single question ; and, passing through a large court-yard, we ascended a flight of marble steps, which led to the apartment in which the Noble Prisoner was confined.

CHAPTER THE FORTY-NINTH.

The State in which VANILLO found THE DUKE OF OSSUNA; in what Manner that Nobleman received him; the Conversation they had with each other; and the Personages by whom it was interrupted.

THE Viceroy, for so, by way of excellency, I shall always distinguish THE DUKE OF OSSUNA, although after what THOMAS had told him, he must have expected to see me, exhibited strong marks of astonishment when I entered the room.

“How, VANILLO,” cried he, “is it possible that friendship for your old master can induce you to partake of his troubles? Can you prefer the sorrowful life which he passes here to all the gay and lively pleasures of MADRID?”

“YES, Sir,” replied I; “the pleasure of being near the person of your Excellency

“lency, and of receiving your commands,
“is more delightful to me than liberty.
“Such is the sensibility that your imprison-
“ment has excited, that your own heart
“cannot feel your troubles with more
“poignancy than I do.”

“Is it possible,” exclaimed the Duke,
“that in spite of the bad treatment you
“received from me in SICILY, you have
“always preserved a zeal and affection for
“me? I blush when I think of the in-
“justice I committed; and, to repair the
“injury, as THOMAS is no longer in a con-
“dition to fill that place, I select you for
“my confidential attendant. Do you,”
continued he, addressing himself to QUI-
VILLO, “return to MADRID, and inform
“DONNA CATHERINA, that you have found
“for me a man whose company will occa-
“sionally suspend the effect of my chagrin.”

QUIVILLO departed well satisfied with
my reception, leaving me alone with the
Duke; who, seating himself in his arm
chair, and reflecting on the unpleasant
situation of his affairs, “VANILLO,” said
he, “draw a chair and tell me all you

“have been doing since your departure
“from SICILY : you have, without doubt,
“experienced many pleasant adventures.”

“THE most pleasant,” replied I, “was
“the danger I escaped of being burned as
“A CONJURER at the last sacrifice of THE
“HOLY INQUISITION.”

“WHAT do you say,” exclaimed the
Duke ; “you certainly cannot be serious !”

“PARDON me,” replied I. “At the last
“*auto de fé*, I was one of the unhappy vic-
“tims destined to carry the *samarra*, upon
“which flames and devils are painted, and
“my head was menaced with the ornament
“of a *carochas* ; but I fortunately escaped.”

“I AM eager to be informed,” replied the
Duke, “how you could release yourself
“from the gripe of THE HOLY INQUI-
“SITION, whose dungeons I consider like
“a place, from *whose bourn no traveller re-
“turns.*”

FEARFUL of fatiguing my noble auditor,
I succinctly recited this adventure ; but he
insisted on my giving him a very circum-
stantial account of the whole transaction,
which obliged me to enlarge the subject of
my

my narration; and I detailed to him a journal of my residence in ITALY and return to SPAIN. I began, by relating the manner in which I became a Pharmacopolist; my attachment to VIOLETTA, the daughter of POTOSCHI; and how, when I was on the verge of marrying her, I quietly surrendered her to the arms of a more favoured lover; quitted PALERMO; and embarked for LEGHORN.

THE Viceroy was so highly entertained by this portion of my adventures, that he requested of me to relate to him the subsequent story of my life; and I performed the task in so lively a manner, that, oppressed as he was by the circumstances of his misfortunes, he burst occasionally into involuntary fits of laughter, particularly when I described the several characters to whom I administered my grand specifics for restoring decayed beauty, and the wonderful transformation they effected on the persons of my patients. But at length, conceiving that it was a fiction, calculated merely to divert him, he interrupted me—

“GONZALES,” said he, “you exaggerate
“the virtues of your compositions; they
“may at most, perhaps, remove freckles,
“embellish the complexion, and soften the
“skin; but it is impossible to conceive that
“they have power to invert the order of
“Nature, by giving the high and rosy
“bloom of youth to the withered cheeks
“of age.”

“Excuse me, Sir,” replied I; “the com-
“positions I am speaking of possess very
“extraordinary and surprising powers;
“they completely metamorphose the pa-
“tient, and restore to faded beauty its
“time-stolen charms. You will no longer
“doubt its efficacy, when I tell you that
“the Baroness de CONCA, who so power-
“fully attracted your attention, as well as
“her mother the Lady BLANCHE, whom
“my predecessor THOMAS thought so rosy,
“did not disdain to use them.”

“How can you know that?” enquired
the Viceroy.

“BECAUSE,” replied I, “POTOSCHI, the
“inventor, who furnished these Ladies
“with them, has frequently informed me,
“that

“ that the Baroness, young as she was, owed
“ her conquest over your Excellency less
“ to her own nature than to his art.”

THE idea of having been enamoured with
factitious beauty raised a blush upon the
Duke's cheek ; it wounded his vanity ; but
I being the only witness of this petty mor-
tification, he affected to laugh at his cre-
dulity, and endeavoured to pass it off as a
matter unregarded ; immediately after-
wards, however, assuming a serious coun-
tenance, “ VANILLO,” said he, “ if you
“ really possess this important secret, you
“ will soon be rich.”

“ I SHOULD have been so now,” replied
I, “ if THE INQUISITION would have per-
“ mitted it ; but I was unfortunately de-
“ nounced to THE HOLY TRIBUNAL, and
“ arrested as a *Chemist*, who had recourse to
“ *magic* in performing his operations.”

Nor content with merely stating the fact,
I gave the Duke a faithful account of this
transaction in every particular circumstance,
and you will easily conceive, that I did not
forget to tell him of the total confiscation
of my property.

THE

THE laughter into which the description I gave of this event threw the Duke, was interrupted by the arrival of the Duchess and Don JUAN TELLES, their son, who visited the Castle daily. "You must be surprised," said his Excellency to Donna CATHERINA, "to find me in so merry a mood, considering the gloomy condition of my affairs; but I could not resist the impulse which a ridiculous adventure VANILLO has just related to me created."

"SINCE he possesses the power of amusing you," said the Duchess, "I am extremely happy that you have him as a companion; especially as I have been assured by both THOMAS and QUIVILLO, that he has ever preserved for you a sincere attachment."

"I AM convinced of it," replied the Duke, "and I hope I shall hereafter have it in my power to reward his zeal and affection. The gaiety of his humour is very agreeable to me, and his liveliness will, I perceive, prevent the intrusion of many unpleasant reflections."

DONNA

DONNA CATHERINA, wishing to impart some private matters to her husband, desired him to walk towards the window; and, while they were conversing, Don JUAN earnestly entreated me to afford his father all the comfort in my power, and to diminish, if possible, the chagrin that preyed upon his mind; assuring me, that my kind attentions would be gratefully remembered by the Duke, on his being enlarged; "which," added he, "we have great reason to expect in a few days." The Duchess also, as I attended her to her carriage, repeated the request, and gave me the same information, so that I had every reason to be content with my confinement, and to flatter myself that my complaisance would soon meet with its reward.

CHAPTER THE FIFTIETH.

The Means VANILLO employed to divert the Mind of the noble Prisoner, and the Effects he produced.

THE Duke, on the departure of his family, threw himself into his arm chair, and desired me to acquaint him by what miracle I had escaped from the clutches of THE HOLY OFFICE. While I was relating to him the manner in which I procured my freedom, through the interest of the Count de OLIVAREZ, a profound sigh issued from his bosom: "You speak," said he, "of a
 " person who plays a very exalted character on the political theatre of Spain;
 " a man who happily possesses the great art
 " of rivetting the mind of his Royal Master
 " to his will. Even the Duke of LERMA
 " never possessed a more powerful ascendancy over the mind of PHILIP THE
 " THIRD. But OLIVAREZ, alas! unfortunately

“tunately for me, is my determined enemy,
“and with the Count de BENEVENTO,
“directs the designs of the party who are
“now seeking my ruin. Had it not been
“for the malignant envy of these two No-
“blemen, I should, long ere this, have
“been at liberty; or rather I should never
“have been confined. Instead of my con-
“duct being impeached, a statue would
“have been raised to commemorate the
“services I have rendered the Crown;
“but superior merit wounded their envious
“souls, and they have not only used every
“endeavour to compass my death; but,
“fearful of the effect my liberty might
“produce, unite in perpetuating my im-
“prisonment.”

CONCEIVING, from the manner in which the Duke uttered this sorrowful declamation, that he was sinking into a melancholy humour, I suddenly changed the conversation to the subject of the HOLY OFFICE; and, by a train of happy ideas which occurred to me on the occasion, I disposed his mind to pleasant reflections.

ON

ON asking him, whether he did not think it extraordinary that I should be accused of *sorcery*, merely for knowing how to prepare a composition for the use of the ladies, he replied, with an air of *raillery*, “Not at all; for if it be true that POROSCHI’S art gave my Italian Baroness the lustre in which she appeared to me, I really think you must have some dealing with the Devil; for she was a woman whose complexion seemed to my observation perfectly natural, and therefore you was, in my opinion, very fortunate indeed to escape the flames.”

“TRUE,” replied I, in a jocular manner, “I merited this species of punishment from the Inquisition as much as the punishment I suffered at PALERMO, when I was accused of being a *murderer*; but I beg your Excellency’s pardon for the observation.”

“OH! my dear VANILLO,” cried the Duke, “forget, I entreat you, the injustice I committed. Excuse the mind of a lover distracted with suspicions and over-
“ come

"come with grief. Let the fatal event be hereafter buried in oblivion."

THE Duke pronounced these words with a sensibility so tender, that it deeply affected my heart. How easily may superiors banish from the mind of inferiors all sense of injuries received. Charmed by the repentance which his Excellency expressed for the manner in which he had treated me in SICILY, my attachment to him augmented to a degree I had never before felt. So sensibly indeed was my heart touched by his returning kindness, that the tears of affection started in my eyes. The Duke observed my sensibility, and I discovered by his emotions the correspondent feelings of his heart : so natural is it to be affected by the pleasure of perceiving ourselves beloved. "Go, VANILLO," said he, "the future shall recompense the past. Whatever occasion I may have heretofore given you to complain of me, I will hereafter treat you in such a manner as to deserve your approbation."

THESE affectionate expressions bound me for ever to the Duke, who appeared to me

at

at this moment the most amiable Nobleman existing, or that ever did or would exist. Unable to suppress my joy, and yielding to the transports which agitated my mind, I threw myself at his feet and kissed his hand, without his being offended at my indecent boldness.

DURING this scene a bell announced that dinner was ready, and in a few minutes the Major-Domo entered and acquainted the Duke, that it was on the table. Rising from his chair, and passing into the adjoining apartment, he seated himself alone at the table, and his Equerries and Gentlemen in waiting, to the number of nine or ten, immediately attended, and during the whole time of dinner stood round the Duke, uncovered, waiting, with respectful silence, to receive the orders he should be pleased to give; but he addressed his discourse entirely to me, and the answers I made to all his questions pleased him so highly, that it could not fail to excite the jealousy of those who heard him, and to raise an idea that I was about to become the favourite of their noble master.

THE

THE repast being finished, his Excellency retired into his apartment to sleep, while I, accompanying his other attendants, descended into the lower rooms, where a splendid dinner was prepared for us. The table, if it had been provided at the King's charge, would not have been so well supplied; for, although the expences of State Prisoners were in general paid by the Crown, his Majesty made no allowance for this purpose to the Duke of OSSUNA: an additional trait of malice in the conduct of the Duke's enemies; who, by an invidious distinction, had procured an Order of Council, that he should have the privilege of living as he pleased in the Castle; it being but just, they said, that a Viceroy, so rich and so magnificent, should be permitted to live in a manner suitable to his accustomed splendour.

THE Major-Domo, when dinner was over, desired a private conversation with me; and, taking me into an anti-chamber, "Signior GONZALES," said he, "will it be agreeable to you to renew our acquaintance with each other? You do
" not

“not recollect me, I perceive; I was, however, in Sicily, and in the service of the Viceroy, when you were one of his Pages: True it is, I did not then make a very conspicuous figure in the house. The obscure post I held was not likely to bring me much into your notice, as it was one of the lowest in the establishment; but I was soon appointed to a higher station; and, advancing from year to year, I was at length, by the interest of my sister who waits upon the Duchess and possesses her confidence, appointed Major-Domo.”

“THIS,” replied I, “is the way of the world. I congratulate you on your promotion to this high office, and request your friendship.”

“I,” replied he, “am anxious to obtain yours; for you will soon be, if you are not already, the HEPHESTION to our ALEXANDER.”

“WHY, between ourselves,” replied I, “I have the happiness to be looked upon with rather a favourable eye; and if you should ever have occasion for my good offices with his Excellency, I desire you
“will

“ will command me, and rely upon my
“ services.”

THE air of high importance with which I pronounced this sentence, might probably induce the Major-Domo to conceive me in no small degree vain and arrogant; but if his real sentiments of my character were unfavourable, he prudently concealed them, and exhibited so warm a gratitude for the professions I had made, that we immediately entered into an intimacy, which totally devoid, as it certainly was, of all moral sentiment, assumed externally the appearances of real friendship.

THIS domestic was sincerely attached to his master, and had been endeavouring, with affectionate anxiety, to contrive the means of entertaining him; but, finding all his efforts for this purpose entirely fruitless, he desired that I would suggest something, by which we might beguile the tedious hours of captivity. “ I really cannot think of any thing at present,” said I. “ The desponding disposition of the Duke’s mind, however, must, if possible, be prevented. Something or other must be
“ done

“done to amuse and divert him. Stay; an
“idea occurs to me at this moment: he is
“extremely fond, you know, of theatrical
“exhibitions; suppose we were to act A
“PLAY before him.”

THE Major-Domo, bursting into a fit of
laughter, exclaimed, “The idea is ex-
“cellent; and, if it were possible to collect
“a company capable of carrying it into
“execution, I should approve very highly
“of the scheme; but among the thirty
“servants which at present compose the
“Duke’s establishment, there is not, I am
“sure, a single person who is capable of
“recitation.”

“So much the better,” replied I, “bad
“actors sometimes afford the highest plea-
“sure. Good actors might perhaps make
“his Excellency yawn, but very bad ones
“must infallibly divert him; for the more
“ridiculous such an exhibition is, the more
“entertaining I always find it. Shall we
“make the essay?”

“Willingly,” replied the Major-Domo,
“I will undertake to bring here from
“MADRID to-morrow a volume of excel-
“lent

“lent Comedies, and we will select one
“that is most likely to afford his Excellency
“pleasure.”

WHILE we were conversing upon this subject, the Duke's Page acquainted us, that his Excellency had just risen from his couch, and desired to see me. On entering his apartment, “Oh! VANILLO,” exclaimed he, “assist me to dissipate the effect of a
“dreadful dream, which has disturbed my
“répose: the deep impression it has made
“on my mind seems indelible. You will
“perhaps tell me, that dreams are the
“unreal mockeries of sleep, to which no
“credence should be given, and so I have
“always thought; but such is my present
“weakness, that I confess to you I cannot
“help thinking, that those which have
“lately troubled me are secret omens from
“Heaven of my approaching fate.”

“How! my Lord,” exclaimed I, “is it
“possible that a dream can have made so
“powerful an impression upon so firm a
“mind. I am astonished—”

“LISTEN to me seriously, VANILLO,” said his Excellency; “attend, while I disclose

“to you the particulars of this alarm.
“I conceived myself seated in a superb
“saloon, where BENEVENTO and OLIVAREZ seemed to approach me with
“courtesy and condescension, each of them
“striving who should afford the greater demonstration of kindness; but at length,
“methought, they led me into a wild and dreary waste, over-run with thorns and
“briars, where they left me entangled, to explore my way in painful solitude
“through the horrid scene, and, in endeavouring to extricate myself, I suddenly
“awoke. What think you, my good friend, of this dreadful dream? I, alas! fear it bodes no good. The plausibility with which these inveterate enemies appeared before me, indicates to my apprehension, that they are at this moment meditating new schemes against me; and the inextricable situation into which I thought they led me, clearly imports that my present miserable captivity will end only with my life.”

“Oh! my good Lord,” exclaimed I, “why will you thus ingeniously torment your mind by explaining so disadvantageously
“tageously

“tageously the confused notices which generally accompany the moments of perturbed repose. You resemble a State Prisoner who was, not many years ago, confined in the Castle of *SEGOVIA*, and became the victim of his own imaginary predictions. I will relate to you the circumstances of this singular event :

“*DON GUILLAM DE MEDINA DEL CAMPO*, a Gentleman of the Province of *LEON*, having been accused of holding a traiterous correspondence with the insurgents in *CATALONIA*, was arrested by an order from the King, and committed to close confinement in the Castle of *SEGOVIA*. While the proceedings against him were preparing, his wife and daughter daily presented themselves before the window of the dungeon in which he was confined, the grate of which commanded a view of the surrounding country, and endeavoured, by their gestures and other significant signs, to excite in his mind the hope, not only of a favourable but speedy judgment. The trial was at length appointed,

“ and the Prisoner was acquitted. The
“ wife and daughter, being immediately
“ informed of this happy event, presented
“ themselves in the midst of their domestics
“ before the window of the dungeon.
“ The domestics were charged with baskets
“ of the richest fruits; the choicest wines,
“ and other articles; for the wife and
“ daughter of the Prisoner conceived that
“ the display of a feast would clearly and
“ unequivocally inform the Prisoner, who observed
“ their preparations, that the event of
“ the trial was in his favour. No sooner,
“ however, had the domestics spread the table
“ cloth upon the grass, in order to arrange
“ the dishes in proper form, than the misguided
“ imagination of the Prisoner became suddenly
“ alarmed. Instead of
“ giving a favourable interpretation to the
“ demonstrations of joy his fond family exhibited
“ before him, he considered them
“ as presages of his approaching fate. The
“ table cloth, in his disordered fancy, represented
“ a shroud. This emblem of
“ mortality convinced him that he was
“ doomed

"doomed to die, and the fears it inspired
"cost him his life."

A SMILE pervaded the countenance of the Duke, as I concluded this anecdote. "This Don GUILLAM," said he, "had indeed a very perturbed imagination."

"YOUR Excellency's imagination is not
"less so," replied I; "you shall not be
"interpreter of my dreams. The enmity
"of the two Noblemen may at this moment
"be subsided. Instead of still meditating
"your destruction, they perhaps repent of
"having oppressed you."

"How little, alas! do you, VANILLO,
"know of Statesmen," replied the Duke;
"be assured from me, that the hatred of a
"political rival is unconquerable, while the
"object of it exists. The dream, perhaps,
"I may have explained improperly; but
"time alone can reveal my error."

OBSERVING that the freedom with which I disclosed my sentiments pleased and entertained his Excellency, I continued my conversation with him; and having, during the afternoon, related to him the sequel of my adventures, I retired to rest.

EARLY in the morning of the following day, the Maitre d'Hotel brought me the volume of Comedies which he had received from MADRID: the immortal LOPEZ DE VEGA was the author of it. We selected the celebrated Comedy of *L'Ambaxador de si mismo*, or the *self-created Ambassador*. The subject of which is, in few words, as follows:

A YOUNG King of Leon, wishing to espouse a Princess of Castile whose charms he had heard celebrated, resolved to visit the Court of her father in disguise. He accordingly assumed the character of his own Ambassador; attended the Court of the Castilian King; demanded his daughter in marriage; and, after surmounting a variety of obstacles, at length obtained her hand in marriage.

"THIS Comedy will suit us extremely well," said I; "and our first care must be to cast the parts, and deliver copies of them to the respective performers."

"As to actors," replied he, "I have among others two who are exactly of the kind you described; for, as your main design is to make his Excellency laugh, they

“ they may, as to this purpose, be confi-
 “ dered incomparable originals. The one is
 “ GASPARD MOCILLERO the cook, and
 “ the other JOSEPH DE MAGOZ, nick-named
 “ in the household, “ *El gracioso de la*
 “ *Cozina*,” from the talent of buffoonery
 “ and the thousand ridiculous anticks he
 “ possesses, to create diversion.”

“ Good,” replied I, “ they shall perform
 “ comic parts; two of the characters, there-
 “ fore, are already filled; but where shall
 “ we find actresses, particularly one capable
 “ of representing the Princess of Castile.”

“ SHE is already found,” replied the
 Major-Domo. “ There is among the
 “ Duke’s pages, a tall youth of a fair com-
 “ plexion and slender form; and who, even
 “ to the sound of his voice, is so completely
 “ effeminate, that he is distinguished by the
 “ appellation of DON SERAPHINA FLOXO;
 “ and his person is perfectly well suited to
 “ his name.”

TRANSCRIBING accordingly the several
 parts of the Drama, and delivering each to
 the performer whose talents we conceived it
 would best suit, we enjoined our Company

to perfect themselves as soon as possible ; and, inexperienced as they certainly were in tasks of this kind, they were able, in about a week, to recite their several parts with tolerable accuracy.

As the object of this whimsical exhibition was to elevate and surprise the Duke's mind, I conceived that our intention ought to be executed with all possible secrecy ; but my brother Manager, apprehensive that his Excellency might conceive this species of entertainment improper under his present circumstances, differed from me in opinion ; and, as it was necessary that this point should be settled before we proceeded farther, I repaired immediately to the Duke's apartment.

THE Duke, on my entering the room, addressed me with a smile, " GONZALES," said he, " tell me candidly, are you not " tired of your confinement to the Castle ? "

" No really, Sir," replied I, " I shall " never be tired of it in the company of " such a master. And neither Don GABRIEL, your Excellency's Major-Domo, " nor myself, will be to blame if we do not " relieve

“relieve you from occasional despondency
“by certain little entertainments which we
“have been contriving to exhibit. We
“are already prepared with one that I think
“your Excellency will not disapprove.
“We propose to act a play before you.”

“TAKE good care,” replied his Grace,
“a troop of strollers cannot be admitted
“into the Castle without the permission of
“the Governor, who, not being one of my
“friends, will most likely refuse such a re-
“quest.”

“OH!” exclaimed I, “we do not re-
“quire the assistance of strollers. The
“piece shall be represented by actors, se-
“lected from your own domestics.”

“OH! that is another thing,” replied he;
“an entertainment of that kind I may, I
“think, readily admit, without the dread
“of reproach; but,” added he, tossing his
head with a disdainful air, “I doubt a little
“the abilities of your actors.”

“YOUR doubt is groundless, Sir,” replied
I; “they are, generally speaking, excellent
“performers. There are many on the
“Theatre Royal, who have not more merit:

"in short, I am certain the exhibition will afford you pleasure."

"UPON that assurance," replied the Duke, "I will no longer oppose your benevolent design."

THE Duke, having signified his assent to our scheme, I returned to my brother Manager; and, after a long consultation, we agreed to take different departments in the management of our new Theatre. He consented to take upon him the office of *Property Man*, and provide, according to his own fancy, different dresses for the actors; while the more important task of *Prompter*, to make them recite their several parts with proper emphasis, was assigned to me. The rehearsals were well worth hearing: when an actor declaimed very badly, or put himself into ridiculous postures, which was generally the case, he received my warmest applause. "Bravo!" cried I, "that is right; keep to that tone and it will do; mind and preserve that fine attitude; his Excellency will be delighted with your performances."

THE

THE Piece itself, saving the respect due to the memory of the immortal Author, was badly written ; and, in addition, the lines were so wretchedly pronounced, that the voice of the Prompter was heard at the close of every verse.

ABOUT an hour previous to the commencement of the Play, the Duchess of OSSUNA and her son Don JUAN arrived at the Castle, accompanied by a few select friends whom the Duke, on a persuasion of its being highly diverting, had invited to behold the spectacle.

WHAT rendered the scene still more ludicrous was, that Don GABRIEL had resorted to a clothes-shop in MADRID, and purchased different dresses of the most fanciful kind, but as unfit for the characters to which they were respectively appropriated as they were for the persons of those who wore them : each actor, therefore, produced an effect upon the audience the moment he appeared. Among others, I remember that GASPARD MOCILLERO, the Cook, who represented the Majesty of Leon, no sooner appeared on the stage, than the absurdity of his dress

excited a roar of laughter : even the Viceroy could no longer contain his gravity. But if his muscles were relaxed by the oddity of MOCILLERO's dress, his ridiculous attitudes afforded a still greater subject of laughter ; he could no longer resist the impulse ; and the whole company, perceiving him so well inclined to dispel his spleen, heartily followed his example.

JOSEPH DE MAGOZ, the *gracioso de la cozina*, played the part of the King's confident ; and, like his master, afforded his audience great entertainment. The very sight of his person, indeed, provoked risibility : he was a species of dwarf, strangely shaped ; and his entrée greatly increased the mirth of the company ; but it is impossible to describe the high entertainment which the natural primness and affected airs of the tall Page, who personated the Princess of Castile, produced. Self love prevented him from discovering his absurdities. The company, however, severely censured his ridiculous vanity by applauding him with that humiliating clap of hands, which is sometimes practised at the Royal Theatres, when the audience mean
to

to disapprove of the acting of the players, or the composition of the author : and the piece concluded just in time to prevent the company being fatigued with their entertainment.

“ I MUST acknowledge, my Lord,” said the Duchess to her husband, “ that you appear to have been much delighted.”

“ MADAM,” replied he, “ I owe my entertainment to GONZALES, who, sagaciously conceived that a play represented by such actors could not fail of diversion.”

“ I AM happy,” replied Donna CATHERINA, “ to find that GONZALES possesses the talent of contriving these amusements for you ; and I request that he will redouble his endeavours to banish from your mind the sorrowful ideas by which it is frequently depressed.”

“ THE commencement of his endeavours is excellent,” said the Duke ; and though he has been with me so short a time, I find that he is capable of considerably alleviating, if he cannot entirely subdue, my afflictions.”

THE Viceroy, by these words, greatly strengthened my interest with the Ducheſs and Don JUAN, who, from the new testimonies of friendship they afforded me, confirmed the hope I entertained of being amply recompensed.

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-FIRST.

The Duke, notwithstanding all the Care of VANILLO, falls into a Despondency, which nothing could dissipate: the unhappy event which soon followed it.

DURING the course of three weeks, I was enabled, with the assistance of the principal domestics, to amuse his Excellency. We exerted ourselves in every possible way to dispel the melancholy that preyed upon his mind, and we had every reason to rejoice in our success. Our congratulations, however, upon this subject were of short duration. The gout, with which he was occasionally afflicted, attacked him so violently, that instead of attending to our amusements, he abandoned his mind to the sorrows his situation inspired; and all

all that we could either say or do, to alleviate his chagrin, produced no effect.

OBSERVING that our efforts were vain :
“ Sir,” said I, “ we are at a loss whose assistance to implore to relieve your Excellency from the languor into which you appear to have lately fallen. Do not suffer your fortitude to be vanquished on the very eve, perhaps, of your emancipation. Revive your dejected spirits. Recollect how much it tarnishes a great and heroic character, not to endure misfortune with magnanimity. If you fall under the frowns of fortune, you will only add to the felicity of your enemies. Do not afford this triumph to their malevolence ?”

“ WHAT would you have me do ?” replied the Duke. “ While any hope of being released from these walls remained, I patiently endured my sufferings ; but hope is now no more, and I perceive that my enemies intend to detain me in prison for the remainder of my life.”

“ No, no, Sir !” replied I, “ do not permit such an idea to disturb your mind.

“ Heaven

"Heaven will, I hope, prevent so un-
 "merited a fate."

WHILE I was proceeding to display the most consolatory observations my zeal and eloquence could furnish me with, Don JUAN TELLES entered the room: "Oh! my
 "Lord," cried I, "you could not have
 "come more opportunely. Aid me to
 "banish the vain fears which have suddenly
 "seized the mind of my beloved master."

ON hearing these words, which I pronounced with the tenderest emotion, for I really felt a warm attachment for the Viceroy, Don JUAN asked me the cause of his father's fears.

"He fears," said I, "that he is deprived
 "for ever of his liberty."

THE young Lord, addressing himself to the Duke, "Do not, my dear father," said he, "listen to the vain fears which agitate
 "your mind. The news of this day ought
 "to remove every apprehension. At the
 "King's levee this morning, the Count
 "declared his surprise at your being de-
 "tained a prisoner, after the answers you
 "had given to the interrogatories; ac-
 "know-

“knowledging that they afforded incontestible proofs, both of your innocence and of the important services you have rendered to the Crown of Spain.”

“THIS was the observation of an insidious enemy,” interrupted the Duke precipitately, “this Minister still hates me, or why does he not espouse my cause, since he says I am unjustly detained a prisoner; no, no, my dear son, judge more correctly of this Statesman’s character, by believing, that while he seems to lament my situation, the traitor only regrets that I was not condemned to die. I am convinced of his animosity towards me. Ties of the closest nature have connected me with the House of SANDOVAL, and a man who has been once favoured by the Duke of LERMA can never expect the friendship of the Count OLIVAREZ.”

AN attempt to remove any opinion which the Viceroy had once deliberately adopted, was like beating the air. Don JUAN, therefore, who knew his character, forbore to contradict him, and only observed, that the Minister, being now conscious that his
power

power was established beyond the danger of opposition, might perhaps be softened in his resentments.

"EXCUSE me," replied the Duke; "he has frequently, in the presence of the King, darted sarcasms at me, which I have answered by such severe replies as he will never forget."

"WELL," replied Don JUAN, "however it may be, let me implore you, my dear father, not to despair. Banish dejection; abandon this fatal melancholy; reassume your spirits; the interests and affections of your family exact from you this exertion."

THESE exhortations, pronounced in the most pathetic manner, by an affectionate child, appeared to make great impression on the mind of a tender parent; but the idea of never regaining his power at Court recurred, and plunged him into a deep despair, at the very moment when he seemed to re-assume his courage.

THE ensuing day, his Excellency, so far from having tranquillized his mind by philosophic reflections, appeared more disturbed

turbed and agitated than ever. The gout also, to increase his calamities, returned with double violence. During a period of three weeks, he continued to languish; and one evening, as he was walking across the room, leaning one arm on me, and supporting himself on the other side with a crutch, he was seized with an apoplexy. Calling for help, I conveyed him, with the assistance of two of his domestics, to his bed, where he lay three hours entirely senseless. Another servant, while he was in this distressful situation, went with all possible dispatch to MADRID, to announce the sad tidings to his wife and son, who came immediately to the Castle, accompanied by two Physicians; but they attended, rather to be witnesses of his death than to use endeavours to save his life. Prerensions of assistance, however, were made, and some medicines even were administered; but they only served to precipitate his end; for two days afterwards he resigned his life, in the arms of his wife and in the embraces of his son.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-SECOND.

The Consequences of the Duke of OSSUNA's Death, and the Consolation which the King afforded to his Wife and Son. VANILLO enters into the Service of Don JUAN TELLES.

THE Governor of the Castle no sooner heard of the death of his Prisoner, than he conveyed information of it to the Prime Minister, who went immediately and announced it to the King. The Sovereign, as well as his Prime Minister, were, it is said, affected by the event; but I do not advance this as an unquestionable fact. The King, however, certainly dispatched a Nobleman of the first distinction to the Duchess, to offer to her from him his compliments of condolence, with orders to assure her, that her son Don JUAN TELLES should be appointed to the Viceroyalty of SICILY,

SICILY, as an acknowledgment to him of his father's services. This mark of contrition, if it did not entirely console the mother and the son, moderated in some degree the excess of their affliction.

THE interment of the Duke was performed without pomp, and in the manner he had frequently desired. I mean to be understood, that he was buried under the habit of an Augustine Father. His grave was plentifully bedewed with tears: the grief of his numerous domestics was loud and bitter; for they had heard that he had died *intestate*. Even I, though I shed some unfeigned tears in friendship for so kind a master, could not sometimes avoid regretting the hours I had lost in voluntarily confining myself with him in the prison of ALMEDA; nor forget the magnificent promises I had received, which were now worth nothing. In short, while we were all of us waiting in sorrowful expectation of receiving no more than our salaries, a rumour prevailed, that the Duke, about a month before he died, had made a *codicil*, as if by pre-

presentiment that he was doomed to expire within the walls of the Castle ; and that, so far from forgetting any of his attendants, he had left to all of them very handsome legacies, proportioned to the nature of the offices they respectively held in his household : and indeed, a few days after his obsequies were performed, Donna CATHERINA called us together, and, having ordered her Secretary to read the codicil, said, “ When-
 “ ever any of you chuse to receive your
 “ legacy, my Banker shall pay it ; but this
 “ is not all,” added she ; “ if you chuse to
 “ return to SICILY with the new Viceroy,
 “ you shall each of you receive your former
 “ salary.”

THE Duchefs had scarcely finished these words, before the greater part of the Assembly testified their inclination to accompany Don JUAN ; the others, preferring their own country to Italy, took measures for their continuance in SPAIN.

DONNA CATHERINA appeared surprised to find that I was among those who had testified no inclination to revisit PALERMO ; “ VANILLO,” said she, “ I have been flat-
 “ tering

“tering myself that you would not withhold from my son the same attachment you professed to his father; but you appear to have alienated your mind from the family, and shew no inclination to accompany us to Sicily.”

“MADAM,” replied I, “SICILY is a country which, when I consider the mortifications I felt there, cannot be very pleasing to me; but, whatever occasion I may have had to hate it, I should very willingly return, if I were persuaded that my services would be as acceptable to the present Viceroy as they were to his predecessor.”

“You will have no reason to doubt that,” replied Donna CATHERINA; “my son is extremely partial to you; he considers you as adopted by the family, and you will be, among his principal agents, the one who will possess his entire confidence.”

THE Duchess had no occasion to say any thing more to induce me to engage in the service of her son; and Don JUAN, who came in at this conjuncture, learning the subject

subject of our conversation, confirmed all his mother had said; he even added, that it was his inclination to appoint me his principal valet, his confidential friend, his THOMAS; and a situation so high and distinguished, with a young and gallant Nobleman, appeared to me so flattering and advantageous, that I no longer hesitated accepting of it.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-THIRD.

The Departure of the new Governor, and the Accident which prevented VANILLO from accompanying him to SICILY. The Consequences of this Accident.

DON JUAN succeeded to the titles of his deceased Father ; and, by the unexpected favour of the Crown, was put into immediate possession of his confiscated estates. The King, indeed, by these acts of kindness, seemed only to second the wishes of all ranks and orders of his subjects ; for the enmity which had pursued the family during the prosperity of the Duke, was entirely buried in his grave.

THE new Viceroy no sooner heard that the six ships which had been appointed to convey him to PALERMO were ready, than he took leave of his Royal Benefactor and departed

departed for BARCELONA, accompanied by his wife DONNA ISABELLA ; it being thought more prudent for DONNA CATHERINA to remain at Court, in order to cultivate and support a powerful interest in favour of her beloved son. The aged THOMAS, whom she knew possessed an excellent judgment, and whose gouty complaints rendered it of little use for him to accompany the new Viceroy, also continued at MADRID. The pleasure and profit I had long promised myself from this expedition through the interests of QUIVILLO, who enjoyed in a high degree the confidence and friendship of the new Viceroy, my adverse stars prevented me from reaping.

ON the evening of the day fixed for our departure, I was unfortunately seized with a violent fever, which increased so rapidly, that my life was thought in danger. A Physician was immediately sent for ; who, although he was scarcely thirty years of age, had perhaps already dispatched more patients than Hippocrates himself. This seventh son, after a very profound consideration of my case, wrote a prescription,

consisting of *frog's gall* and *baked wheat*; which, he observed, according to the opinion of PLINY, was an unerring febrifuge in all cases; but I no sooner tasted this compound than I was seized with such strong convulsions that the Doctor seemed perfectly satisfied I should soon have no occasion for any other medicine. I continued delirious for three days. During this time I was again attacked, not only by the Doctor, but by his coadjutors the Surgeon and the Apothecary, in such a variety of ways, that they seemed resolved I should ultimately tell no tales. By the greatest miracle imaginable, however, I at length escaped alive from their hands.

THE moment I thought my health sufficiently established to undertake the journey, I departed from MADRID with a returning Muleteer for BARCELONA; and we travelled so expeditiously, that we arrived there at the end of eight days. My Conductor carried me to SAINT ANDREW'S GATE in the new Town, and set me down at the sign of THE PHENIX, an Hotel of very decent appearance.

“ I HAVE

“ I HAVE brought you here,” said he,
 “ in preference to any other place, for several reasons : you will here find a neat
 “ room, a comfortable bed, excellent fare,
 “ and, what ought to make a considerable
 “ part of your pleasure, you will behold
 “ in your Hostess a young and charming
 “ widow, extremely good humoured, and
 “ extremely sensible.”

“ So much the worse,” replied I, jokingly,
 “ her merits are mortifying to a traveller
 “ who has not time to make love ; for if
 “ I should find an opportunity to-morrow
 “ to embark for ITALY, I must embrace
 “ it.”

JUST as I had ended this sentence, the Hostess entered the room.

“ HERE she is,” cried the Muleteer ;
 “ Does she not deserve a guest of your
 “ consequence ? Look attentively at her
 “ figure.”

I WAS, I confess, struck with her beauty, and still more by the easy and natural style of her conversation. She shewed me with great politeness the chamber in which I was to sleep, which

I attributed to the Muleteer having, on our arrival at the Hotel, announced me as one of the principal attendants on the Duke of OSSUNA, the new Viceroy of SICILY. To pay on my side that tribute which every man of gallantry owes to a pretty woman, I made a thousand flattering speeches to her, which she answered with equal good sense and modesty. The conversation in which we engaged insensibly convinced me that amiable as her person certainly was, her mind possessed superior charms.

ON the first suspension of the conversation, she retired and left me with the Muleteer who asked me what I thought of such a widow.

"I AM of opinion," said I, "that a man
"can no where be so well attached. In
"what part of SPAIN was she born?
"She does honour to her country. I am
"sure she is descended from a good fa-
"mily."

"I AM ignorant who were her parents,"
said the Muleteer; "I only know that she
"is a native of the City of MURCIA."

MY

My heart bounded in my bosom at these words, and I felt a strong kind of anxiety without knowing why or wherefore.—“By Heavens!” said I to myself, “if this young widow should be my sister INESILLA, it would be an extraordinary circumstance. It is very probable: yet surely it cannot be. I will, however, unravel the mystery this very evening, if possible.”

“My friend,” said I to the Muleteer, “as I was also born in the City of MURCIA, I should be very glad to have a private conversation with this widow, upon the subject of her family, whom I ought to know; especially, if she is not of very low extraction, which I cannot believe. Go, I request of you, and tell her from me, that I shall be happy to converse with her on the subject.”

THE Muleteer, who went immediately to the widow, informed me on his return, that she would wait on me immediately; “for I no sooner told her,” said he, “that you were from MURCIA, and wished to talk with her on the subject, than she appeared

"highly delighted. Oh! here she is.
"Well, I will leave you together, that you
"may the more freely indulge your cu-
"riosity."

THE Muleteer accordingly retired, as
the Hostess, who had immediately followed
him, entered the room.

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-FOURTH.

VANILLO's Conversation with the Widow; and the Astonishment of both of them on discovering who they were.

“**M**ADAM,” said I to the widow, “I am informed that we were born in the same place. Permit me to converse with you upon this subject, and to take the liberty of asking who you are. It is not an idle curiosity that prompts me to make this request; I have a very particular reason for asking you the question. Tell me, I beseech you, who were your parents.”

“SIGNIOR,” replied the widow, “I was born in the city of MURCIA; and though my parents were not noble, their condition was by no means vulgar: my father, whom I lost in early infancy, was a
 25 “Physician,

“Physician, who had received his education
“in the University of ALCALA.”

“How! What was his name?” exclaimed I with precipitation and emotion.

“His name was VANILLO GONZALES,” replied the widow; “but,” added she, observing my agitation, “why are you thus
“moved? You seem to be interested in
“what I say. Did you know my father?”

“Oh! perfectly well,” said I; “as well
“as his own son; for if I am not mistaken
“he had one named—VANILLO.”

“You are not mistaken,” said she,
“VANILLO is my brother’s name; but
“alas! poor boy, I am ignorant what is
“become of him. He quitted MURCIA one
“morning secretly, and since that time I
“have never heard of him.”

TEARS ran down her cheeks as she pronounced these words, which it was impossible for me to observe with dry eyes. Charmed to discover so fine a sympathy in a sister, I instinctively followed her example.

ASTONISHED at my appearing so sensible to her sorrows, “You weep, you weep,”
exclaimed

exclaimed she. "Oh! you are—you are
"my brother. Your sensibility discovers
"you. It is VANILLO, my brother, I am
"speaking to. Acknowledge it immedi-
"ately, I implore you; for every moment
"you delay the confirmation of my hope
"you delay the happiness of my life."

"WELL, my sister," said I, touched by
the marks of affection she shewed, "yes,
"I am your brother. Your VANILLO is
"before you."

IN pronouncing these words I opened
my arms, and we embraced each other for
a quarter of an hour without being able
otherwise to express the mutual joy which
overwhelmed our hearts.

THE claims of consanguinity being in
some degree satisfied by this tender indul-
gence of sincere affection, we requested of
each other a faithful relation of our respec-
tive adventures since our departure from
MURCIA, and I promised to detail a real
narrative of every thing I had met with
whether good or bad, on condition that
she would afterwards relate to me, with
equal sincerity, the story of her life, which

she instantly consented to do; but as we had both of us much to say, and I was greatly fatigued with my journey, we thought it better to postpone this reciprocal confidence until the ensuing morning.

AFTER partaking of an excellent supper, I retired to bed, where I slept profoundly until nine o'clock the ensuing morning, when awaking fresh and gay I arose, and hastily dressing myself, went to wait upon my sister, whom I met as I was going out of my chamber; when, retiring to her apartment, we sat down, and without further ceremony I recounted my exploits, not indeed without sometimes concealing and sometimes colouring the truth, which I did with less scruple, because I was persuaded that my dear sister would not fail to do as much in her turn, notwithstanding the solemn promise of sincerity we had mutually made.

A HISTORY like mine always contains parts which require to be softened down, and obliges the hero to sacrifice truth in order to maintain his honour. I imitated,
in

in short, those painters, who, to temper the harshness of their tints, blend them neatly with each other. Obligated, for example, to speak of the will which my uncle made in my favour, the reader will hardly imagine I was so foolish as to confess to my sister that I permitted his unjust suspicions to prevail against her without endeavouring to remove them. Oh! no: I touched the delicate scene with the pencil of a master.

"My dear INESILLA," said I, in an affectionate manner, "you cannot conceive how sensibly I was mortified when I discovered that no notice was taken of you in the will. Sole inheritor as I was of the fortune of our uncle DAMIEN, I could not help reproaching his memory for having forgot you, and to vindicate your wrongs I determined to divide all his effects with you."

"GENEROUS VANILLO!" exclaimed INESILLA, interrupting me in this place and embracing me; "how happy am I in having such a brother!"

"INESILLA,"

“INESILLA,” said I, interrupting her in my turn, “instead of rejoicing upon this subject, you have reason to complain that you have so unfortunate a brother. The rich inheritance of our uncle, alas ! the half of which I intended for you, is no longer in my possession. Permit me to conclude my history, and you will hear what became of it.”

THESE words seemed a little to confound my co-heiress, who, conceiving that I had been robbed of the inheritance, grieved inwardly, as it appeared to me, on account of her part and portion. But I was unacquainted with the character of my sister ; for, having finished my story, my sister addressed me in the following manner :

“I LAMENT, my dear brother, that you have had any contest with the Inquisition, since you lost by it such a mine of wealth. Do not, however, imagine that I feel any mortification on my own account ; it would be doing me great injustice. My sensibility to this misfortune is affected entirely by a consideration of your interests ; for I am, thank Heaven, comfortably

“fortably situated, and even in a condi-
“tion to make a proposal to you which I
“implore you not to reject. Live hereafter
“with me ; let us unite our fortunes. Re-
“linquish your intended voyage to ITALY.
“It will not, perhaps, be more fortunate
“to you than the former. What has the
“late Duke of OSSUNA done for you ?
“Nothing : and it is most likely his son
“will not use you much better. Great
“men are not always to be relied on.
“Where one of them rewards his adherents
“with liberality, there are thirty who re-
“pay them only with ingratitude. In
“short, my dear brother, since Providence
“has thus decreed we should meet again,
“we will never part. BARCELONA is a
“place in which a man may pass his time
“agreeably, and I assure you that you shall
“never want money.”

“How, INESILLA !” said I, smiling at
these last words ; “you excite high ideas
“of the contents of your strong box, and
“encrease my curiosity to learn the means
“by which you have enriched yourself.”

“YOUR

"YOUR curiosity is natural," replied INESSILLA, "and I will, by-and-by, perform my promise with all the sincerity you can possibly wish."

My sister, having made these observations, began her History in the following terms.

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-FIFTH.

*The History of INESILLA, the Sister of
VANILLO.*

A SHORT time after the death of our father DOCTOR GONZALES, you recollect that our uncle DAMIEN took you under his roof to teach you the sublime art of surgery, in which he was so profoundly skilled ; and placed me, when only six years of age, at the Castle of CANTARILLA, to be there educated by my godfather, the owner of it, and my godmother, who, during six years, lived with him upon terms that wore every appearance of conjugal union. Both of them interested themselves in the care of my education ; and fancying I possessed a disposition to return all the kindness they bestowed, I became the sole object of their concern.

THE sudden death of Don ISIDORE DE CANTARILLA, my godfather, deprived me
of

of his friendship while I was yet a minor, and left both my godmother and myself, unprotected orphans, to bewail his loss; the one from interest, and the other from affection.

SCARCELY had the breath left his body before his hungry heirs repaired to the Castle, from whence they very uncivilly expelled his female friend. But, while they continued untouched by the torrents of tears she shed upon this occasion, they affected to feel some pity for me. The charms of youth, and a promise of increasing perfections, in some degree awakened their concern for my situation, and, on a council being called to consider what they ought to do with me, an aunt of the deceased, an old devotee, was of opinion that the heirs ought to contribute, in certain proportions, towards my education, until I should be capable of providing, by servitude, for myself. But this proposal was unanimously rejected; the heirs being of opinion, that it would be much better to leave me entirely to the care of my godmother than to be at any expence on my account

account themselves ; and she immediately discovered all the affection of a mother for her adopted child, by immediately assenting to take me under her own protection.

IN vain did the old devotee represent to them the danger of placing me under the guidance of a person of my godmother's character ; they paid no attention to her remonstrances ; and without embarrassing their minds with any conjectures respecting my future welfare, surrendered me quietly and entirely to her care. I accordingly accompanied my kind sponsor to a cottage in the vicinity of ALICANT, the owner of which, an old husbandman, was her near relation.

TALEGO, for that was the name of our rustic benefactor, received us with an extraordinary degree of hospitality. He was one of those characters whose arms are ever open to receive a poor relation. He had indeed always entertained a particular affection for Signiora BARBARINA, my godmother, who soon became the absolute mistress of his house ; for TALEGO, who had neither wife nor children, looked up to her superior sense with implicit confidence,

dence, and permitted her to govern without the least contradiction.

THE farm on which we resided extended almost to the gates of ALICANT, and we daily visited the city, where BARBARINA soon made a number of acquaintances. Among many others she formed an intimacy with the widow of an Alguazil; and there was so much sympathy in their dispositions, that in less than eight days their acquaintance had all the appearance of a long cemented friendship.

THIS widow, whose name was ALZINA was about forty years of age, had been extremely handsome, and still possessed sufficient beauty to inspire a transient passion.

WHILE these transactions were passing, I advanced in growth, and began to assume the appearances of maturity. My god-mother, who had no intention to seclude me from the eye of admiration, thinking it was time to introduce me into the world, permitted me to accompany her on her visits to the city. On my first appearance I attracted the attention of a young Gentleman,

man, who, inexperienced as I was, I observed gazed upon me with an extraordinary species of delight. You will easily imagine, that if at so young an age I was capable of making this observation, my godmother, who upon this subject was an experienced matron, did not fail also to see it : I even perceived that she felt a secret pleasure at the discovery.

ALBINA, our kind friend, sometimes visited us at the cottage of TALEGO, but for one visit she paid us we returned her four, as she was always surrounded with that which my godmother so anxiously sought after, *a party of good company*. We scarcely ever visited her without meeting with two or three Officers of the Navy, and a young Captain in the Guards, who, it was said, waited for a favourable opportunity of passing to GENOA, in order to join his regiment in the Milanese ; but the moment of departure was always delayed, and in fact never arrived. Can you well believe that I was the cause of this delay ? This young Officer, whose name was Don GABRIEL DE GINESTAR, struck, without doubt, rather
by

by the lively splendour of my youth than with any beauty I possessed, became deeply enamoured with me ; but instead of making a declaration of his passion, he prudently concealed it under so specious an appearance, that almost every eye was deceived. I confess I felt an affection for him, and was astonished to find a young man of his profession so sensible and grave ; but he was far from being what he seemed, and the young traitor soon afterwards throwing off the mask, convinced me of the error of believing a character virtuous from his exterior conduct.

DON GABRIEL had formed a design to carry me off, and had concealed his measures so judiciously, that one evening, as I was returning alone to the cottage, a circumstance which very seldom happened, he executed his plan without the least difficulty. Three or four men seized me suddenly in their arms, and carried me instantly on board a vessel which was waiting ready on the shores of the Gulf, and which put immediately to sea.

THE

THE violence with which I was seized had caused me to faint away, and I continued for a long while totally senseless. When recollection returned I cast my eyes on the persons who surrounded me, and discovered Don GABRIEL DE GINESTAR, who, to prevent my reproaches, or rather to alleviate my anguish, addressed me in a humble and respectful manner.

"MY lovely INESILLA," said he, "you
"have reason, I confess, to complain of
"my conduct, and perhaps to consider me
"as a brutal ravisher. But suspend your
"anger, however justifiable it may be, and
"listen to me for a moment with calm
"attention, and you will not find me un-
"worthy of your forgiveness. Observe, I
"implore you, that I have not taken you
"from the protecting care of a tender father
"or affectionate mother, but from the cus-
"tody of a woman who is a stranger to your
"family, from a woman who would have
"sold your honour; for I know her better
"than you do, and am convinced that she
"has only protected you hitherto with this
"infamous view. Therefore, my charming
"maid,

“maid, instead of considering me as your
“enemy, you ought to view me as an agent
“sent by Heaven to shield your innocence
“from the danger to which it was ex-
“posed. I am a Gentleman of indepen-
“dent fortune; I adore you. Permit me
“to conduct you to my mansion, and, as
“a proof of the purity of my intentions, to
“offer you my hand in marriage.”

DON GABRIEL expressed these sentiments with such eloquent tenderness, that the outrage he had committed vanished from my view. Instead of invectives and imprecations, I could only answer him with sighs and tears; and he permitted me to indulge my feelings without interruption. While this unequal conflict was passing in my mind, the fatal vessel arrived at a creek near TORTOSA, where this second PARIS carried me on shore, and handing me into a carriage which had been previously provided by his orders, we arrived in a short time at the Castle of GINESTAR.

CONCEIVE, my dear brother, the alarm I felt on finding myself entirely at the mercy of my ravisher; but he appeared so respectful

respectful and polite, that my fears in some degree subsided; and having promised not to conceal any thing from you, I must even confess that I brought myself in a short time to look on him without apprehension.

"MY dear INESILLA," said I, interrupting my sister in this part of her narrative, "it is not difficult to divine the rest. The Gentleman in time appeared amiable; your heart beat responsive to his love; and you continued mistress of his house without becoming his wife."

"No; pardon me," replied INESILLA; "he performed his promise; married me; and convinced me by his conduct of the integrity of his character. Receiving from him every attention which a wife can expect, my heart, sensible of his tenderness, repaid his kindness with gratitude. The union in which we lived was perfect; but scarcely had we tasted the felicities of our happy state when we were obliged to part. Don GABRIEL was ordered to join his regiment in ITALY; and soon afterwards a battle was fought,

“ the first he was ever engaged in, in which
“ he lost his life.”

In addition to my misfortune, I received, with the sad news of his death, information of a circumstance, of which I was before entirely ignorant ; for Don GABRIEL never communicated to me the situation of his affairs. It appeared that all the inheritance he derived from his father was his great name ; that his estate at GINESTAR was mortgaged far beyond its present value ; and that I should be extremely fortunate if his creditors did not wrest from me the trifling annuity he had settled on me, by way of jointure, previous to our marriage.

I was now reduced to the situation of a noble but indigent widow ; but a dowager of fifteen years of age is not usually abandoned by the world. Don COSMO DE TEVISA, a Gentleman of landed property in the vicinity of the Castle of GINESTAR, and the uncle of my deceased husband, came immediately to me with an offer of his services. He was between fifty and sixty years of age ; venerable and philosophic

phic in his appearance; and in his conversation a perfect SENECA, for it consisted entirely of moral sentences. He had frequently visited at the Castle, but his attentions to me after I was widowed considerably increased.

"My dear niece," said he, on his first visit after the death of Don GABRIEL, "incapable as I may be of removing your afflictions, I may at least endeavour to alleviate them, by offering you my fortune and my advice."

THIS generous offer he accompanied with so many affectionate expressions, and appeared so sensible of my situation, that I returned my thanks to Heaven for having sent me a friend with so compassionate a heart. The seeming sincerity of his friendship, and still more the veneration that was due to his age, inspired me with confidence and esteem; for I conceived the bosoms of the aged were freed from the tyranny of Love; I was however soon undeceived. The philosophic Don Cosmo, on his second visit, convinced me, that in spite of his philosophy a violent and increasing passion for me was

working in his breast; he vainly endeavoured to conceal it under the veil of friendship; for it burst forth in all his conversations. During our interview he pressed me with great warmth to accept the protection of his house.

“THE creditors of Don GABRIEL,” said he, “will soon seize upon his estate, and “it will be mortifying to you to be driven “from the Castle. Come to my mansion,” added he in a soft accent; “come and “reside upon my estate. It is, as you “know, pleasantly situated: besides, there “are in its neighbourhood many Ladies of “merit with whom you may pass your “time very agreeably. You will also live “with an uncle, whose happiness your “company and conversation will tend “greatly to increase.”

A THOUGHT passed silently through my mind as Don Cosmo uttered these words. “O ho!” said I to myself, “I have a “very affectionate uncle! He intends, I “fear, to make me pay a high price for “this proffered hospitality. He will, I “conjecture, offer me his hand, and the “situation

“situation of my circumstances may possibly induce me to listen to his suit.”

My conjecture was well founded. Don Cosmo, soon afterwards, made to me a formal declaration of his love; expressed the captivity in which he was held by my charms; and assured me that he was ready to marry me immediately; adding, in order to gild the pill and make me swallow it with less reluctance, that he would provide for me in such a manner as would compensate for the want of youth which he no longer possessed. Inclination, had that alone been consulted, would have politely dismissed my loving uncle, whose person was but ill formed to interest a youthful fancy in its favour; but I had already begun to think seriously; and I at length consented, not without aversion, that this old Gentleman should become my second husband.

A MAN who, in the autumn of life, marries a woman young enough to be his grand daughter, attaches himself to her, in general, with extraordinary fondness. The happiness of the unfortunate Don Cosmo,

therefore, was not of long duration. At the end of six months I again became a widow ! with this difference indeed, that my second nuptials had placed me in an easy situation without injuring any of my charms, for my two husbands had, as it were, flitted like shadows from my arms.

“ I FANCY,” said I to my sister at these words, which excited a smile, “ that you did not long continue in this easy situation : come, if you please, to your third husband.”

“ I request, my dear brother,” replied she, “ that you will not jest with such serious subjects. No part of my narration can, I think, authorize you to entertain suspicions of my virtue.”

“ On the contrary,” replied I, “ so far am I from condemning your second marriage, that it appears to me a strong proof of your wisdom and prudence. But if you continue to fly from husband to husband, I am fearful you will be thought to have followed inclination too closely.”

“ You

“You are disposed to pleasantry, brother,” said INESILLA, smiling and blushing at the same time. “Certain it is, that if I had had many other husbands I should have been *une franche Francie du Roi de Garbe*; but Don Cosmo had only one successor. Allow me, in kindness, this third husband; he was the one I loved the most. I shall proceed to describe to you the outline of the character of a man with whom, after a short courtship, I was united in the softest ties of Hymen, and by what accident death tore him from my arms in the prime of life.”

THREE months subsequent to the decease of Don Cosmo I quitted the country and retired to TORTOSA, to inhabit a house I had hired in that city. Enjoying in this situation the common privileges of widows, I continually received company at home or sought it among my friends abroad. One day, visiting a family where a numerous party was assembled, a young Gentleman, distinguished by a beauty of person which every body admired, entered the room. The Ladies in particular, I observed, viewed

him with favourable eyes; and, to speak the truth, his appearance quite charmed me. But the pleasure he afforded me greatly augmented when I perceived, that from the first moment he observed me I was the sole object of his attention. My vanity was highly flattered; I ardently longed to know the name and condition of this lovely stranger; and I determined not to leave the room until I had satisfied my curiosity. "*Who is he?*" said one to the other, in a whisper, throughout the assembly; "*What is his name?*" The information was returned in a whisper by those who knew him, and I at length learned that the name of this dangerous mortal was SALONI, and that he was the son of an opulent merchant of BARCELONA.

FINDING that he was not, as from the style of his behaviour I had conceived him to be, a man of quality, I felt, like a worthy widow of two *Hidalgos*, a certain degree of pride, and dismissed the young Citizen entirely from my mind. But it was not so with him. Observing him walk on the ensuing day up and down before my window, casting

casting at me the most significant looks, I was convinced that the daring youth ambitiously raised his thoughts to me. Not contented with besieging my door by day, he passed under the balcony at night, and serenaded me with a concert, both vocal and instrumental. The sound of his voice was delightfully melodious; but, not entirely relying on his siege of songs, he gained, by certain presents, the interests of LAURA, my confidential female, who promised him, in return for his money, to procure him an interview with me.

LAURA had discovered that SALONI was, in my estimation, extremely agreeable; I had indeed confidentially confessed it to her; and she entertained no doubt of procuring my consent to see him. When she made the proposal to me, however, I made many objections; but the cunning jade, aided by the powerful eloquence of Love, removed them all so effectually, that one fine night she introduced SALONI as a favoured lover into my chamber.

As usual upon such occasions, he threw himself at my feet, and with a transport

of passion exclaimed, "Oh! divine idol
"of my heart, have I then at length the
"happiness to hope that your tongue will
"confirm the language of your eyes.
"Conscious that a man whose birth is not
"illustrious cannot without high presumption offer you his hand, it is the violence
"of passion with which you have inspired
"me that conquers all controul and forces
"me to speak."

HAVING made this declaration he continued in silent expectation of my answer, which was such as induced him to believe that his boldness was not unpardonable. Instead of affecting a proper degree of pride in honour of the memory of my two former husbands, I had not even power to conceal the lurking affections of my heart. The youth perceived the conquest he had made; and to render it complete, he urged his suit with such tender and passionate address, that I was quite overcome. The soft eloquence, the charming figure, the tender pressure of such a lover, was, as you perceive, extremely embarrassing; but in spite of the tender attachment I felt for him,

him, I preserved a sufficient degree of firmness, to dismiss him from my chamber before the dawn of day, and escaped the peril to which my honour was exposed by indulging so dangerous a conversation.

"A FORTUNATE escape," cried I; "you make me tremble at the idea of your second interview."

"Do not be alarmed," replied INESILLA. "To dissipate your fears and shorten my history, I shall immediately inform you, that SALONI wrote me a letter the ensuing day, expressive of his impatience, to espouse me, and his intention to depart for BARCELONA to procure his father's consent. I signified to him by LAURA my approbation of his design, and that my consent would follow that of his father."

THE youthful lover flew to BARCELONA, on receiving this permission, and returned again in eight days. "Madam," said he, "my father has given me his consent; you have promised me yours; condescend to hasten the hour of happiness."

You will easily conceive, that after this we did not long delay our nuptials; they were celebrated immediately; and, fifteen days afterwards, my new husband conducted me to BARCELONA. I am fearful, continued INESILLA, that you will reproach me for having given my hand to a *Citizen*, after having been the wife of two *Gentlemen*. I appear, perhaps, in your eyes to have derogated —

“Oh! for shame, my dear sister,” said I, smiling. “Can you conceive me so absurd as to think that the daughter of a Physician disgraces her family by marrying the son of a Wine-merchant? Had you been the daughter of the great HIPPOCRATES himself, I should not have blamed you.”

“I THINK with you,” replied INESILLA, “that I did not form an unworthy alliance; and therefore I frankly confess, with great respect for the memory of my two husbands and the honour of my father, that whether their manes bleed or not for my third Hymeneal, gives me little concern.”

“It

"It was a union of which I never had
"occasion to repent."

My father-in-law received me with every demonstration of kindness; conceived for me the tenderest friendship; and was so well satisfied with my conduct, that he hardly knew how to caress me sufficiently, "I am delighted," said he continually to his son, "that you have chosen a wife so
"worthy of your love and of my af-
"fection."

THE affection which the good old man entertained for me was not unreturned; or, to speak more justly, I attached myself to him as warmly as if he had been my own father. Cherished by my father-in-law, and adored by my husband, you will judge whether my life was not completely happy; but as, in this world, every thing is subject to change, my felicity soon vanished. While we were thus swimming in floods of joy, the torrent of misfortune overwhelmed us. A *cholera morbus*, vulgarly called a *trousse gallant*, carried off my husband in less than two days, in defiance of
all

all the assistance which the ablest Physicians of BARCELONA could afford.

THE extreme sensibility with which my father-in-law and myself felt the death of my adored husband, had nearly deprived us of our lives; but the kindness of Heaven fortified our minds, and restored us, by slow degrees, to health.

“My dear daughter,” said Old SALONI to me, after our recovery, “Do not, I beg of you, leave a father who has so much occasion for your company to console his sorrows. Be to me as the son whom I have lost. Do not marry again——”

“ALAS!” cried I, interrupting him, “you may be assured I will never again hear speak either of husband or of lover. I cannot feel an affection for any man after my dear SALONI, even though fortune should present me with a Prince——”

THE good man did not give me time to finish the sentence; but, embracing me with transport, “My daughter,” cried he, “your sentiments charm me, and you well deserve the benefits I design for you. I intend to leave you all my wealth, and
“from

"from this day you are complete Mistress
"of this Hotel."

Promises alone would not content him; he immediately called together all his servants, and declared to them the absolute power he had given me over them. This species of power, although it afforded but little gratification to my vanity, I freely accepted, since it pleased my father-in-law to bestow it on me.

THE moment it was known in BARCELONA, that the widow of young SALONI kept THE PHENIX HOTEL, the young Gentry crowded in companies to the House; and, when they found that instead of submitting to their idle chatter, I conducted myself with a reserve which is not usual to persons in such situations, they afforded me their esteem, and established my reputation.

THREE years after I had been entrusted to administer the affairs of this house, my father-in-law paid that great debt which we all owe to Nature, and bequeathed me, by his will, a considerable fortune.

WITH unaffected sorrow did I bewail the death of this good old man; but you will
not

not expect that I was weak enough to become disconsolate for him, after having survived the loss of his dearer son. Time has dried up my tears; and I have since continued to conduct the business, on my own account, with uninterrupted prosperity.

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE FIFTY-SIXTH.

VANILLO prepares to quit his Sister in order to join the new Vice-Roy at PALERMO, but he bears News which prevents his Departure, and induces him to stay at BARCELONA.

THE conclusion of INESILLA'S confession was followed by very warm and affectionate expressions of the happiness she felt in meeting with a brother after so long an absence. "I have already, my dear VANILLO," said she with great anxiety, "told you, that I have sufficient "to enable both of us to defy hereafter the "frowns of fortune. Let me persuade "you to spend the remainder of your days "with me in BARCELONA. The judgment your experience of life has given "you

“you will be of infinite service to me in
“my present situation.”

“LET Heaven witness for me, my dear
“sister,” said I; that were it not inconsis-
“tent with my present engagements, I
“should prefer the happiness of living with
“you to that of any other mode of life;
“but you know the obligation I am under.
“I cannot avoid going to PALERMO; but
“I will continue with you as long as pos-
“sible.”

INESILLA conceiving my resolution to follow the fortunes of the Viceroy unconquerable declined all farther attempt to change it. To render, however, my departure less painful, I promised to return to BARCELONA within the space of two years, and to reside with her the remainder of my days.

HAVING passed four months very pleasantly with my sister, I prepared to embark for ITALY; when news arrived of the death of the young Viceroy. Doubting the information, although it had every appearance of being true, I waited its confirmation with great inquietude; but the report

at length prevailed so generally, that I could no longer refuse it credit. It was, that Don JUAN, the new Duke of OSSUNA, a few months after he had been received by the Sicilians with incredible joy in honour of his father, had died of a disorder which all the skill of the Physicians of PALERMO could not cure.

THE pleasure which my sister felt when she discovered that I no longer doubted the truth of this report was great. "Well, my dear brother," said she, "the face of your affairs is now changed: the engagements which prevented you from uniting your fortune with mine no longer exist; but I fear you still retain a wish to mingle with nobility, notwithstanding the penurious gratitude with which the great have hitherto rewarded your zeal and services."

"BANISH this idea, INESILLA," said I, "for believe me, I am sincerely tired of the great world. It is much happier to live in a state of humble independence than of splendid servitude. To officiate as

“ as your principal assistant will be far pre-
“ ferable to me, than to act in the highest
“ offices which either a Marquis or a Duke
“ can bestow. Yes, I shall feel superior
“ pleasure in being able to lessen the cares
“ and attention which your present situation
“ requires. In short, I am satisfied that I
“ shall live with you in perfect felicity,
“ provided you do not introduce to me
“ another brother-in-law: I must confess
“ I am not free from apprehensions upon
“ this head.

“ OH!” cried my sister; “ you may
“ quiet your fears of this danger. I will
“ never again put myself in the power of
“ a husband. I think,” added she with a
smile, “ that I ought to be contented with
“ three; although they were * * * * *.”

“ It is true,” said I, interrupting her,
“ your connubial days have been so few,
“ that the world, perhaps, would not re-
“ proach you; but continue as you are; to
“ render our union indissoluble, the tem-
“ ple of Hymen must be shut against both
“ of us. If we are to live in uninterrupted
“ happiness.

"happiness there must be neither a brother nor a sister-in-law in our household."

"I HAVE already told you, and I repeat it," said INESILLA; "the altar of Hy-men shall no more smoke with incense on my behalf; and I am ready to swear to it by every thing that can render an oath inviolable."

"AND on my part," replied I; "I have long ago made a vow of celibacy, and you may be assured I shall perform it."

HAVING interchanged promises to pass the rest of our days, on her part, in the agreeable state of widowhood in which she was now so happily placed; and on mine, in the free and unperplexed condition of a BACHELOR, to which no other in this life is comparable. "VANILLO," said my sister, "I now associate you to my house and fortune which is already in a flourishing state. Let us augment it by our mutual care; and sign a deed before a notary, that we hold our properties as joint-tenants, that each

“each may have the benefit of survivor-
“ship.”

I WAS not such an enemy to my own happiness as to refuse the advantages which INESILLA so generously offered me. I therefore willingly signed the deed of gift, and by this dash of the pen laid the foundation of my fortune, and rendered myself a happy man.

BEHOLD me then, thank Heaven, master at THE PHENIX HOTEL: a condition with which I am so fully satisfied, that I perceive it will be my last. Well! and why should I wish for a higher situation. I enjoy every thing in great abundance, and live a life of perfect independence. That is not true, some contradictory reader perhaps will say. Can a man, in the service of *the Public*, be independant? Is it not rather being a servant to all the world?—Yes, in some degree it is; but there is a wide difference between a man being devoted to the service of *the public*, and the service only of *private individuals*. The last is civil to his customers for their money, but the

the first crouches like a miserable slave to the imperious disposition of a severe and capricious master. In short, the one serves without being a slave, and the other is a slave during the time he serves.



FINIS.

the last crutches like a miserable slave to
the superior disposition of a lesser and
capitons master. In short, the one is a
without being a slave, and the other is a
slave during the time he lives.



11
The first of these is the
the second is the
the third is the
the fourth is the
the fifth is the
the sixth is the
the seventh is the
the eighth is the
the ninth is the
the tenth is the

